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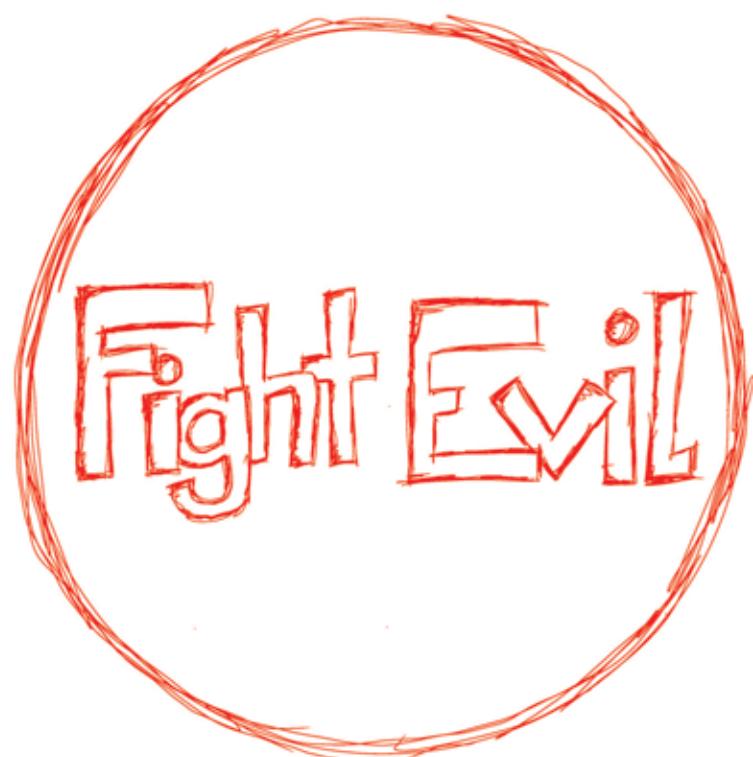
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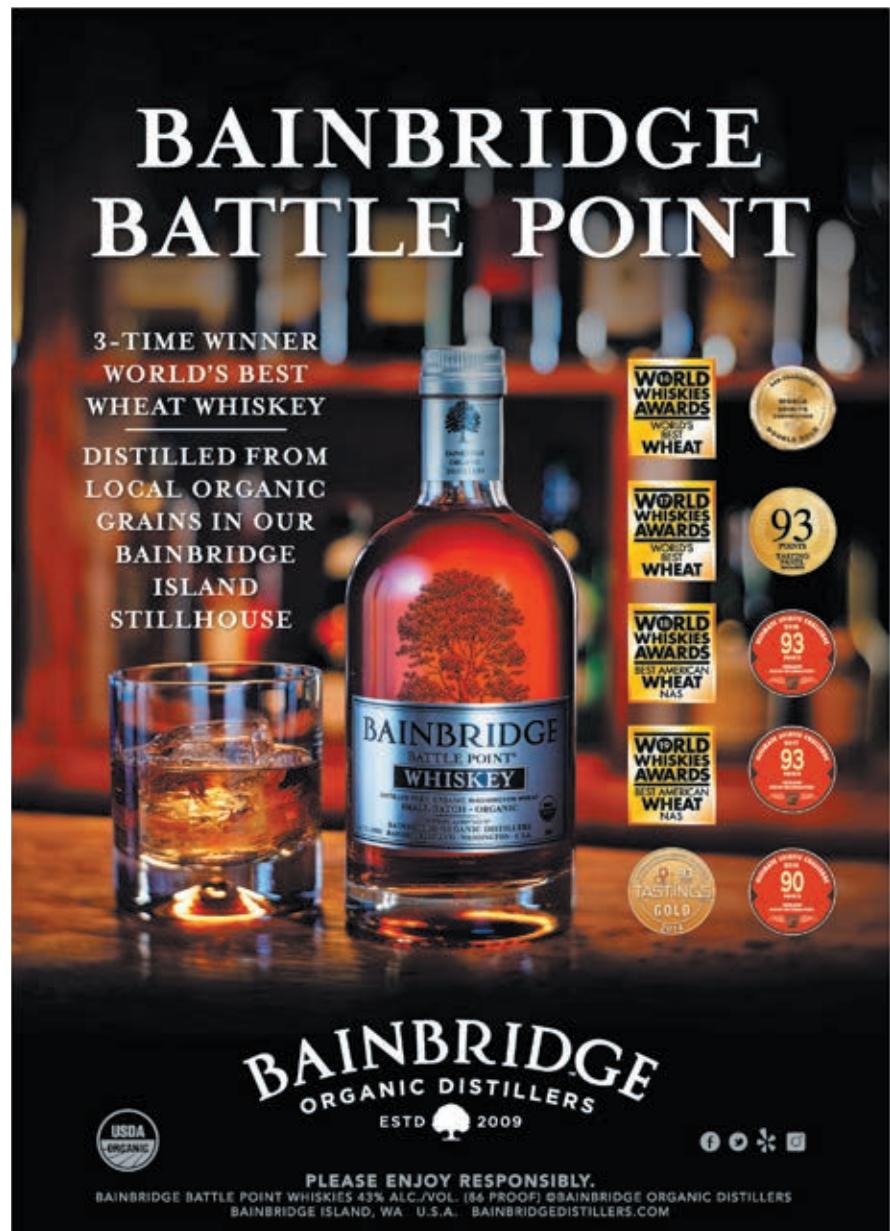
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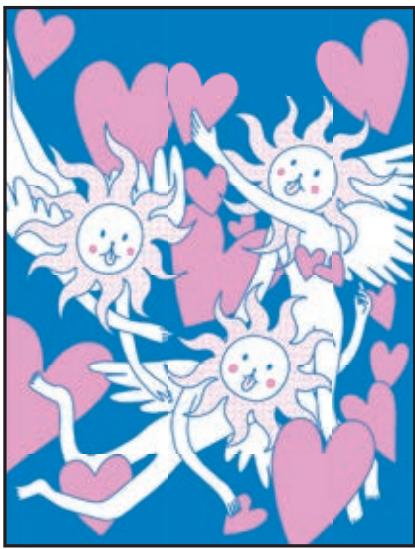
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# theStranger

VOLUME 29, ISSUE NUMBER 12

January 29–February 11, 2020



**COVER ART**  
by Elaine Lin  
@itselainelin

## 7 FORTNIGHT

What you missed if you've been wearing a ball gag for the last two weeks.

Plus: Ask Kendra the kitten!

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THE STRANGER 1535 11th Avenue,  
Third Floor, Seattle, WA 98122  
VOICE 206-323-7101 FAX 206-323-7203  
SALES FAX 206-325-4865  
Mon–Fri, 9 am–5:30 pm  
editor@thestranger.com

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February...love is in the air. Share it with someone special. Just a short, pretty ferry ride away. *Amore.*



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# FORTNIGHT

## EDITOR'S NOTE



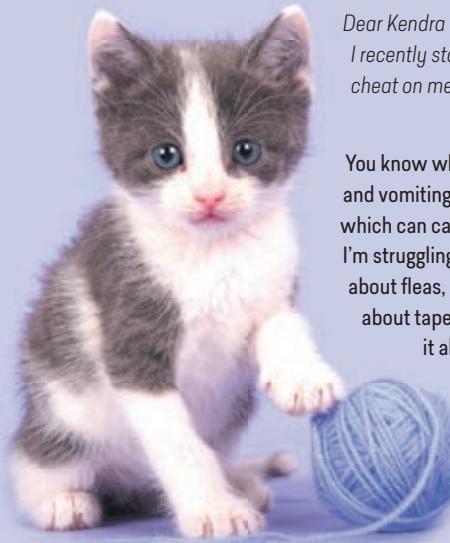
If you are a politician or activist who got a weird phone call from *Stranger* reporter Lester Black recently, that was not Lester Black. An imposter—very likely a local Proud Boy—pretending to be Lester was placing calls to sources and claiming to be writing a story about how not all white supremacists are bad. For the record, all white supremacists are bad, and Lester himself was on vacation in Japan. While the unknown imposter was conducting fake interviews by phone, here's what Lester was actually doing: smoking cigarettes in a five-person Yokocho bar in Shibuya; scalding his nude body in a mountain hot spring; watching an entire village beat their 25-year-olds with flaming stakes in an annual Dosojin fire festival; seeing a Japanese macaque, also known as a snow monkey, in a tree at a ski area; spending one hour in a Tokyo love hotel; and eating so much ramen that he almost threw up in a trendy unmarked ramen shop. If you get a call or text from Lester and want to verify you're not being pranked, you can always email [lblack@thestranger.com](mailto:lblack@thestranger.com) to double check.



During his January performance at the Paramount Theatre, stand-up comic **Patton Oswalt** confessed that he no longer saw the point of telling jokes about **Donald Trump**. The presidency itself is the joke. “The Trump administration,” Oswalt ventured, “is like a collision between an 18-wheeler full of monkeys on PCP and an 18-wheeler full of diarrhea.”

**Ken Jennings**, the pride of Seattle, recently secured his position as **Jeopardy!**'s Greatest of All Time by easily winning the recent tournament that pitted him against two equally brilliant (but not brilliant enough, it turns out) champions. Jennings also secured his spot in our hearts. If you weren't married, Ken, we'd be camped outside your

## ASK KENDRA THE KITTEN!



Dear Kendra the Kitten,  
I recently started dating a musician and I'm worried he might cheat on me. Do you have any advice?

—Beth, 22, Ballard

You know what I worry about, Beth? I worry about eating string and vomiting. I worry about feline lower urinary tract diseases, which can cause bloody urine, dehydration, and depression. Yes, I'm struggling with depression, thanks for asking. I also worry about fleas, and when I'm not worrying about fleas, I worry about tapeworms. You might think that a cute little kitten has it all worked out, but I don't. I would kill for a boyfriend, especially one that could play guitar. Grow up and get over yourself.

Dear Kendra the Kitten,  
My wife is not a very good cook, but she wants to make me dinner on Valentine's Day. Should I just pretend to enjoy her cooking, or should I insist on taking her out to our favorite restaurant, the Pink Door?

—John, 51, downtown

My owner is not a very good cook, either. Every day he comes home from work, takes off his lanyard, sits down on the toilet without closing the door, takes a huge dump, sings to me “Kendra the Kitten, in the deep blue sea...” (which makes no fucking sense because I've never even seen the sea), and then, without washing his hands, goes into the kitchen and scoops dry cat food into a bowl for me. The fuck? Is he trying to give me foodborne illnesses? Why don't you divorce your wife and take me to the Pink Door?

Dear Kendra the Kitten,  
I saw my girlfriend talk to another guy on campus. She was smiling and everything. What does it mean?

—Jake, 19, U-District

That you're ugly.

**Do you have a question for Kendra the Kitten? Send it to [askkendrathekitten@thestranger.com](mailto:askkendrathekitten@thestranger.com).**

house with signs.

A local man's phone was allegedly hacked by **Saudi Arabia**. According to a United Nations investigation, the man—**Jeff Bezos** of Medina, Washington—was targeted by the Saudis in an attempt to influence the *Washington Post*, which later reported on the assassination of its own columnist, Jamal

Khashoggi. Mr. Bezos, who owns the *Washington Post*, responded to the report by subtweeting Saudi Arabia and showing the world that power doesn't make people any less petty on Twitter.

The first case of the Wuhan **coronavirus** to reach American shores was reported in Washington state after a Snohomish County man fell ill following a trip to China. At press time, the number of people in the US with the virus is up to **five**. Staff members at *The Stranger* used the growing pandemic as an excuse to work from home.

The **Seattle City Council** recently unanimously passed a purely symbolic resolution

against war with **Iran**. In the same meeting, the councilmembers had a bit of a quarrel over whether these purely symbolic resolutions do anything.

Gunfire broke out just outside of the **McDonald's** at 3rd and Pine in downtown Seattle, killing one person and wounding seven others.



No Trump jokes.

Speaking of McDonald's, a veteran was kicked out of one in Everett for openly carrying a **karambit**, a curved blade in a sheath. It's four inches long and falls under Washington's open carry laws. He wears it every day. The manager of the McDonald's refused him service after seeing the knife out in the open, saying that there were “children here.”

Following in the footsteps of the American dream, a **bald eagle** was euthanized after being shot at a Tacoma wetland. If you have any information on who might have shot the eagle, you can contact the Department of Fish & Wildlife.

## I, ANONYMOUS



STEVEN WEISSMAN

Fuck you, parking enforcement officer, who I won't call out by name but who I and the rest of the neighborhood know very well. Fuck you for giving me a parking ticket outside of the coffee shop when I SAW YOU in the act and told you I'd move my car immediately. Fuck you for then ticketing me again a few days later for being “within 15 feet of a fire hydrant”—in a parking spot on this street that's almost always occupied and does not in fact block the fire hydrant, and in which I'd never been ticketed previously. A few conversations around the neighborhood reveal that you're pretty infamous for being a douchebag. A bit of googling shows that your surname is already dirty. Is that why you're stuck as a grumpy parking enforcement officer? Shame on you, man. You're a joke. **ANONYMOUS**

### SOMETHING TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST?

E-mail 200 words or less to [anonymous@thestranger.com](mailto:anonymous@thestranger.com)

A synthesizer duo named the Beauty Hunters—featuring **Mudhoney** bassist Guy Maddison—played the album-release party for their debut record, *Muscle Memory*, at the unlikely venue of Westedge Cycle, a motorcycle repair shop. It was a full-on psychedelic audio-visual happening, with **3-D glasses** handed out to enhance the already trippy images projected behind the band. It sounded nothing at all like the hard rock for which Mudhoney have become justly revered.

**If Ken Jennings weren't married, we'd be camped outside of his house.**

Before the live set, another Mudhoney member, drummer Dan Peters, spun some records up in a second-floor DJ booth. He played a mix of new wave, punk, rock, and soul, but the day's biggest shock came when he dropped the absurdly plinky-plonky 1982 hit “Da Da Da” by the German group Trio. Talk about subverting expectations... ■

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# THE LOVE ISSUE



**A**s Valentine's Day approaches, the staff of *The Stranger* has been reading an avalanche of submissions for our online-dating horror story essay contest. Rude men, drunk men, and bank-robbing men all feature prominently among the finalists, but the winning story, by Jessi Miles, might be the weirdest first date we've ever heard of.

"Finally that awful date has paid off," Miles joked when we contacted her about winning the cash prize. Read her short essay, as well as those by the two other runners-up, on page 11.

*The Stranger* has investigated many subjects before—brutal murders, political deceit, endangered species—but few journalistic forays have been quite so heart-pounding as Chase Burns's report on what those gas station "male enhancement" pills do. Do they work? Are they safe? What happens, exactly? Only one way to find out: page 10.

Need a cute date idea? Nathalie Graham recently attended a cocktail-making class with her boyfriend, and she reports on what it was like: page 13.

You know how sometimes you're on a date, and things are getting hot and heavy, and the moment is right for you-know-what, but you can't go back to their place, and you can't go back to your place? What are your other options? Rich Smith has three ideas: page 12.

Can sex toys be recycled? What do you do with an old dildo you don't want anymore? Jasmyne Keimig asks around and has a few ideas: page 16.

Speaking of old dildos, dirtbag ex-boyfriends are the pits. Leilani Polk reveals a few of the hard-won lessons from two men she dated but had the wisdom not to marry—thank god: page 17.

If you have recently had your heart broken and you're wondering why it's having a physical effect on you, well, Katie Herzog has the answers—as well as the surprising story of what one local woman did to get over it: page 14.

Why do sex and weed go so well together? Science has the answers: page 18.

Plus: a review of Garth Greenwell's steamy new novel full of gay sex (p. 25), an art show in which roses feature prominently (p. 23), a romantic musical in which vanilla ice cream is featured prominently (p. 29), and a full Valentine's Day calendar (p. 27).

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*All orientations welcome*

# Do Those Gas Station Pills Work?

What happens when you take over-the-counter “male enhancement” pills? Only one way to find out.

BY CHASE BURNS

You can find so many things at a gas station convenience store. Slushies. Mystery meat hot dogs. Enough caffeine to energize a small militia. An American gas station can feel unincorporated, *lawless*.

But of all the things you can find at a gas station, nothing feels more lawless than those “male enhancement” pills.

Sometimes they’re at the front counter. Sometimes they’re next to the condoms. They go by many names, and promise “TIME!” “SIZE!” and “STAMINA!”

The most famous of these is the legendary Rhino pill, with a big Rhino on the packaging, the word “RHINO,” and typically a number—Rhino 7, Rhino 25, Rhino 69. Who knows what the numbers mean.

Recently, according to the FDA, unapproved Rhino pills have been showing up in single-serving sizes under names like Gold Rhino 25000, Platinum Rhino 25000, and Krazzy Rhino 25000. Their packaging advertises that one pill lasts seven, nine, or even 14 days. Yes, *FOURTEENDAYS*. (Side note: If you have an erection lasting more than four hours, you need to go to an emergency room immediately.)

While I don’t have any reason to use a “male enhancement” pill—I’m not bragging, but I’m in my 20s and my junk works just



*I bought mine at the gas station 7/11 at the corner of Madison and 16th.*

TERRA DEHART

CAPS.) I opted against buying a Rhino pill at the nearby Shell station, having read a warning issued by the FDA that some people who used the *FOURTEEN-DAY BONER* pill experienced “chest pain, severe headaches, and prolonged erections... that led to surgical intervention and hospitalization.”

Extenze Plus came in a pack of five. Apparently, it’s more like a daily multivitamin. The packaging read that it’s “doctor approved” and increases “SIZE,” “PLEASURE,” and “PERFORMANCE.”

Extenze got its notoriety through infomercials starring big-dicked porn star Ron Jeremy. In one infomercial I watched, Jeremy would yell at men to “GET UP!” and just “TRY ONE BOTTLE!” to get “25 PERCENT BIGGER!”

Professional athletes are banned from taking Extenze, since it contains micronized DHEA, considered to be a doping agent. Olympic track champion LaShawn Merritt received a two-year ban for taking Extenze in 2010. Merrit, then only 23, said he didn’t read the “fine print” on the pills—it is, after all, easily available at gas stations—and called it a “foolish, immature, and egotistical mistake.”

I took my first Extenze pill before lunch, during a workday. I figured that if I took it while at work, I would avoid a placebo effect that might kick in if I took it at home with my boyfriend.

This might’ve been a mistake. It didn’t taste weird. There was nothing out of the ordinary. But 15 minutes after taking it, I was

sweaty. Really sweaty. I-just-ate-an-entire-pig sweaty. My back was wet, my forehead was wet. I didn’t feel horny, but I did feel like I could go to war.

I went to look at myself in the mirror. My glasses were fogged up. My face was pinker. My skin warmer. I needed to go home. I took my lunch break.

On my way home, I noticed older men staring at me. Were they checking me out? Cruising? Did they sense the Extenze? Had *they* taken Extenze? “Maybe they just notice how sweaty I am,” I thought. “It’s probably that.”

When I got home, I was hard. But it wasn’t 25 percent bigger, like Ron Jeremy claimed. Actually, it wasn’t bigger at all. It just looked like it had a LOT of blood flowing to it.

“This can’t be safe,” I thought. I felt like I was in *Magic Mike XXL*. I masturbated. Then I masturbated again. I felt weird.

When I got back to work, my pupils were massively dilated, like a shark’s. Or like it was 6 a.m. at the club and I was on molly. A few hours later, the pimples started. First a few on my chin. Then near my eyebrows. Between the pupils and pimples and pulsating blood, I looked scary.

I couldn’t believe I picked this up at a gas station. I decided to give Extenze a break.

\*\*\*

I moved on to my second package of pills, Ageless Male TONIGHT. (I love a good capitalization.)

I felt more comfortable with these be-

cause there weren’t any ingredients that could get someone kicked out of the Olympics. Its primary ingredient was yohimbe extract, which comes from an African tree and apparently helps with erectile dysfunction AND promotes weight loss.

But wait, there’s more: coffee bean extract, green tea leaf extract, turmeric root powder, basil leaf powder, even oregano. OREGANO. That’s just the beginning. There’s also apple fruit extract, sweet cherry fruit powder, black currant fruit extract, and VEGETABLES: broccoli, onion, tomato, carrot, spinach, and kale powder. KALE POWDER.

This was like taking an entire spice cabinet, throwing some African bark into it, and selling it as a magic pill.

It was a Saturday night. I pulled out Ageless Male TONIGHT and gave one to my boyfriend. He took it without fear. I was more anxious. I didn’t want more pimples. We took it at around 9:45. It was supposed to kick in within an hour.

By 10:37, the sweating started. “Oh god,” I thought. “More sweating.” My body got warmer. My throat, I thought, was maybe beginning to swell.

“How do you feel?” I asked my boyfriend. “Absolutely normal,” he said.

Hm. I didn’t. “What if I’m allergic to one of the things in here?” I asked, Googling ingredients. What was camu camu fruit powder? Was I going to die from camu camu fruit powder? I drank some water and calmed down.

“I don’t feel anything,” he said. “Maybe I will in another hour.”

We waited another hour. Still nothing.

“Do you want to do it?”

“Sure.”

We went into the bedroom and proceeded to have incredibly passionless sex. The entire time I wondered if my throat was swelling up. “Do you feel like an ageless male tonight?” I asked.

“I always feel ageless,” he said. We laughed, then got soft. Eventually, we came—at the same time, even! But I don’t think that had anything to do with the pills. We stayed up until 4 a.m. I concluded that these were just caffeine pills with a vegetable blend.

The next day, my boyfriend asked if he could have the Ageless Male TONIGHT pills. “Why?” I asked.

“They get the blood flowing. I heard they’re good to take when you work out.”

He popped one and headed to the gym. At least they were good for something. ■

**Right away, I started to get sweaty. Really sweaty. I-just-ate-an-entire-pig sweaty.**

fine—I’ve always found these pills alluring. Recklessly, I mentioned this at a *Stranger* editorial meeting for this Valentine’s Day issue, and everyone was intrigued. I’d landed my dick an assignment.

\*\*\*

“Do these pills really work?” I asked the cashier at the gas station 7/11 at Madison and 16th on Capitol Hill.

“I don’t know,” he said, shrugging. “Need anything else?” I think he wanted me to get the hell out of there.

“No, I’m good,” I said dejectedly, taking my bag of little red pills.

I’d selected two brands: Extenze Plus and Ageless Male TONIGHT. (Male enhancement brands love to write things in ALL



TERRADEHART

## Online Dating Horror Stories

The winners of our essay contest!

### WINNER

It's 2009. Connect with a guy on Plenty of Fish. He picks me up at my house. We head to an ice cream shop. He has just come back from army basic training and the topic of conversation will only be about what physical stuff he has learned how to do there. I try to change the topic to literally anything other than how fast he can climb something and hand-to-hand fighting tactics, but to no avail. We exit the ice cream shop. He puts me in a headlock. The patrons inside silently watch me flail about, trying to escape. He releases me from the headlock, explains how I should have escaped his hold. We head to the movies. We sit down in an empty theater. He cranes his neck, thinks he hears something. Leaves to go check it out. Ten minutes go by. I hear something on the floor to my left. He's army crawling toward me on his stomach about to grab my ankles and scare me. We finish the movie and leave. Never to see each other again. —JESSI MILES

### RUNNERS UP

**O**n a second meeting with a man, I invited him over to my place. We agreed he would leave when it got dark (I had to pack for vacation). As it got time to leave, he wouldn't move. I saw him take a swig from a fifth of something he stashed in his backpack. He began slurring his words and I had to holler to get him out. It took a few minutes of hollering. As we left the bedroom, I saw his boxers so I picked them up and handed them to him. He tossed them over his shoulder into my bedroom without looking back. Since he was too drunk to ride the bus, I drove him home, except I didn't know his address and he wouldn't tell me. On the way I demanded his wallet so I could look at his ID and get his address. Five minutes of fumbling in his pocket and he pulls out his wallet. Except this wallet was a tin of Altoids. He was incoherent at this point and I'm not sure how he got there so quickly. I thought he was pretending to be drunk until I dropped him off at the Dicks in his neighborhood, because I still didn't know where he lived and he was speaking gibberish at this point.

When he got out, he stumbled across the parking lot and into the street without looking. I waited until he was out of sight then went home. When I got there, I realized he had left his backpack. In it was his wallet and ID, the death certificate for his child (who died by suicide), and some key papers. I brought it to him the next day and gave him another chance. I still regret that. —ANONYMOUS

I met a man on OkCupid. He was 36 years old, a 92 percent match, "ESTP," "drama-free," looking to "find someone intelligent, down to earth, and can keep up with [his] depraved sense of humor." He went on to say that he was at a tech startup and on the weekends he was "on a quest to find new and fun activities." He had a gorgeous dog and he didn't eat kale. Oh, and he was "really good at treating you like a princess."

We instantly connected, texted incessantly, and became Snapchat friends. We had plans for Monday and it couldn't come soon enough. But since I google my dates first, I did a quick search... and I found him:

"Wig-Wearing Bank Robber Finally Caught."

There he was in all his glory. This uber cute guy I had a date with IN TWO DAYS had allegedly robbed a bank less than a year ago.

I then found his wedding website declaring he was supposed to be married in October 2015, but was arrested the day before. He went to jail until February of 2016 and his return to social media showed he was happy to be back with his dog. When I asked for more details, he admitted that his fiancée left him when he came clean about robbing a bank and he was just trying to live a normal life before HIS TRIAL. When I Snapchatted his own headline to him with "WTF" on it, his first question was, "How did you find my last name?" I told him he didn't need to worry about that. His second question was "So I guess our date is off?" Yep, genius, our date is off. —JULIE NASHAWATY

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*A word of warning: If someone sees you engaged in "lewd" conduct, you have broken the law. The Stranger does not condone illegal activity.*

TERRA DEHART

## Best Bathrooms for Fucking

If you can't go back to your place and you can't go back to your date's place, what are your other options?

BY RICH SMITH

**N**ature has many calls, and the call to congress can be no less urgent than the others. Normally the proper response to that call is to ask for the check and negotiate a proper venue. (My place, your place, the parking lot, etc.) But, due to the endless complexities of circumstance, sometimes the only neutral zone to bone is a good powder room.

Obviously, the wisest option is to get a hotel room or go to a sex club, but if you have read this far, you probably don't care about the wisest option. You should know that if someone sees you engaged in "lewd" conduct, you have broken the law. *The Stranger* does not condone illegal activity. Nor do we condone unsanitary behavior. Nor do we condone taking a bunch of time in there and holding up the line for everyone else.

But if you are going to duck into a bathroom with your date no matter what we say, well, some Seattle bathrooms are better equipped than others. Qualities that make some commodes better for boning than others include good lighting, thrillingly bad lighting, premium mirror placement, some kind of furniture, distance from the rest of the venue's hubbub, and—most importantly, depending on where you fall along the exhibitionist spectrum—a good, strong lock.

Here's a little list of bathrooms around town that fit the bill, with apologies in advance to the owners and staff of these venues.

### ROQUETTE

This new French cocktail spot in Belltown is first and foremost a wonderfully managed bar with top notch staff, cozy 1920s hotel lounge energy, and a drink menu I would trust with my life. (Erik Hakkinen, a veteran barman who put in 10 years at Zig Zag Café, runs the place.)

Two unmarked bathrooms with strong locks are located down a hallway a good distance away from the bar. Glossy black tile runs along the bottom half of the wall, and elegant black-and-white wallpaper in a busy tropical flower pattern stretches up to the ceiling. A leather ottoman placed directly across from the mirror within reach of ADA-compliant "grab bars" offers plenty of possibilities for novices and advanced lovers alike.

### LA DIVE

Floor-to-ceiling mirrors, a pretty mini-chandelier, deep-fuchsia lighting, and a good lock make

this trendy new Capitol Hill bar a premium destination for people looking to get in a quickie. With its infinity mirror bathroom walls, La Dive is one of the few places on earth where patrons can see what it looks like to fuck in an endless number of dimensions all at once.

But, there are a couple of issues to consider. First, there is only one bathroom in the bar, so you'll have to make it fast. Second, the toilet itself is ugly, with toilet paper rolls unceremoniously plopped on top of the tank, so just try not to look at it—unless you're into that kind of thing. Finally, there is no furniture apart from the throne. However, the bathroom's cavernous interior provides plenty of room to play.

### OLYMPIC SCULPTURE PARK

Maybe Alexander Calder's *Eagle* makes you horny. Or maybe Mark di Suvero's *Bunyon's Chess* brings back fond memories of certain racks you've been strapped to. Whatever the case, if you're near the waterfront and you absolutely have to have sex with someone, there is a drafty but discreet and well fortified bathroom in the parking garage beneath the entrance. No frills, some chills, but most importantly—no code. ■



*Doing hands-on classes is when my boyfriend and I have the most fun together.*

## Mixing Things Up

A cocktail class makes for a fun date.

BY NATHALIE GRAHAM

**T**he martini was born in a bathtub. Or at least that's one way the origin story goes. During the Prohibition era, gin was easier and faster to make than time-intensive barrel-aged whiskey. After bathtub gin made some people blind, they started cutting it with vermouth. Thus, the martini was born.

That's one of the many things my boyfriend, Harry, and I learned at Cure Cocktail, a hole-in-the-wall cocktail bar that's a stone's throw from Harry's apartment on Capitol Hill. I had bought him a cocktail-making class at Cure for Christmas. Doing hands-on classes is when we have the most fun together, like when we did a tea tasting or took a blacksmithing class.

Cure Cocktail is quaint and cozy. There were lights casting a dim yellow glow on a wall of rain-spattered windows. Harry and I looked at each other as the host guided us to our seats. "We should come back here all the time," he said.

We took our seats at the bar—or, as it was known during the class, Joe's corner.

Joe Wargo—who was selected as one of Seattle's best bartenders in a *Stranger* popular-vote contest—is affable, easy to talk to, and easy to learn from.

Wargo does these classes every Wednesday. There are three drinks taught per class. Every month, the class changes. There have been coffee-themed classes (flaming Spanish coffee, coffee martini, a coffee old-fashioned), a brunch cocktail class, one that taught Moscow mules and sweet and sour, and more. It costs \$35 per person and lasts an hour and a half.

Tonight, we were making martinis. I gulped. I didn't know anything about martinis except that my stepdad and James Bond both like them. (That is where the similarities between my stepdad and James Bond end.)

The class was structured around different types of martinis: the classic, the vodka martini, and the Vesper martini (otherwise

known as the Bond martini). We got to sample Joe's version of each one.

Wargo walked us through the steps a bartender takes to make the drink, flashy pours and all. The classic martini is almost too easy: two ounces of gin (which is a four-second pour) and a splash of vermouth (less of this makes a martini dry). Add ice, then shake until the shaker is dripping with condensation. During our hands-on shaking practice, I accidentally handed the shaker back to Harry when it was full of ice. He flipped it upside down to start shaking his drink and ice spilled everywhere. I wish it was intentional.

We were taught how to use a whole gamut of bartending tools—shakers, pourers, jiggers, stirrers, etc. We practiced pouring techniques using alcohol bottles filled with water. We tested our techniques against the rest of the class. Despite eyeballing the exact amount of a shot glass with his practice pours, Harry crumbled under the pressure when it was his turn to show his skills to Wargo. I wasn't even in the running. During my turn, Wargo gently reccorrected how I was holding the bottle.

At the end, we got to choose which version of the martini we wanted to make. I picked the original. Harry picked the Vesper (vodka, gin, Lillet blanc aperitif, and a lemon twist). His was delicious. Mine was terrible—it was like 90 percent vermouth. That's how they made it back in the day, until World War II made vermouth (produced in either Italy or France) hard to come by, and the dry martini was born. I'd like to think I was just being true to history.

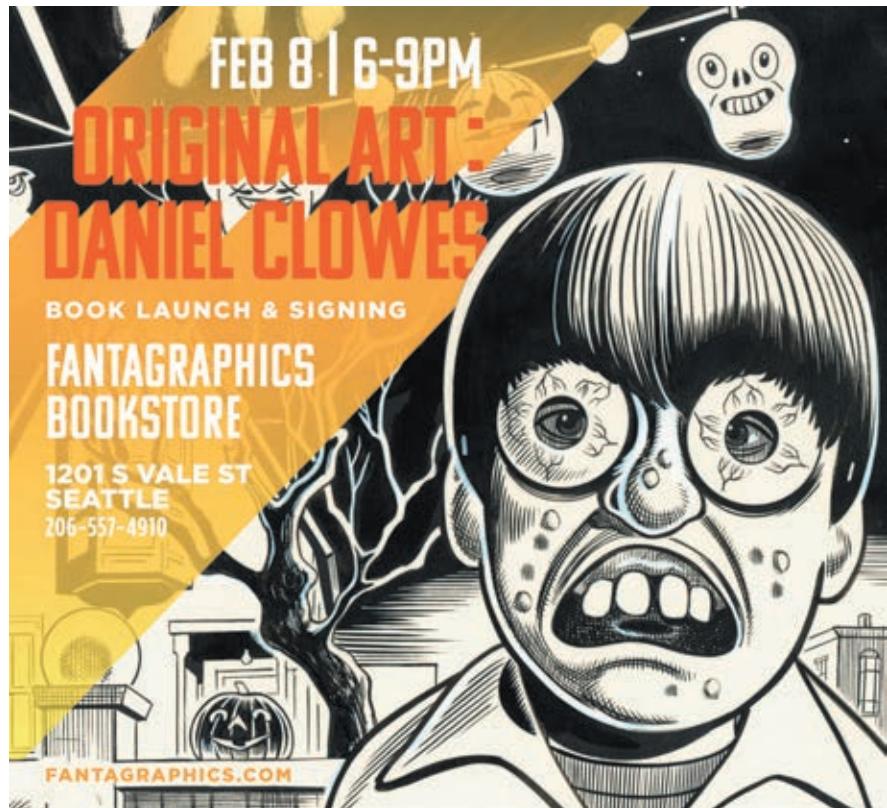
"Should we hit the liquor store on the way back and buy a shaker?" Harry asked. "I think we could get really good at this."

"Maybe tomorrow," I replied.

We left a little tipsy and rosy-cheeked and walked arm-in-arm back to his apartment, where we looked up the availability for February's classes on old-fashioned. ■

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# Love Hurts

What science says about heartbreak—and how to get over it.

BY KATIE HERZOG

**W**hen people talk about breakups, they often use words like “trauma,” and this isn’t really an exaggeration: Psychologists say breakups are right up there with serious illness and the death of a loved one on the list of the most stressful life events people commonly experience.

As anyone who’s gone through it can likely confirm, heartbreak can have physical symptoms. It’s not just our feelings that are hurt, it’s also our bodies. This manifests in different ways. Some people can’t sleep or eat, others sleep or eat to excess, but the commonality is often a sort of obsession. That’s one of the hallmarks of heartbreak: We become consumed by thoughts of the person who hurt us.

Scientists have studied what exactly is going on in the brains of the heartbroken, and have found that when heartbroken people think of the person who rejected them, the same areas of the brain are activated as when we feel physical distress.

Other studies have found that heartbreak mirrors drug withdrawal. When we’re in love, the brain releases feel-good hormones like dopamine and oxytocin. When we’re rejected, those hormone levels drop. It can be a devastating experience, and one that is prolonged by exposure to the object of our affection—even if that exposure is in the form of photos, texts, or posts. This makes breakups especially difficult in the social-media era. You don’t need to see the person who hurt you; you just open Instagram and your heart breaks all over again.

A perverse truth about breakups is that often the one person you turn to when things are bad—the person you’re used to taking care of you—is the one person you can’t turn to for solace. You may still want them in your life, but the longer that person stays in your life, the harder it is to accept things and move on.

There are some basic steps you can take to help your recovery. For one, block your ex on social media. Delete the photos and texts. If you can’t bring yourself to erase the entire history, print out a few photos and put them in a box (and then, when you’re ready, leave it out on the curb on garbage day). While it’s not always possible to completely cut off contact, the point is to decrease the number of triggers in your life. But there are other ways to get through it. Some of them are obvious (exercise, eat right), and others, as one Seattle woman discovered, are less obvious—and just a little bit illegal.

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Ariel Meadow Stallings describes the day her life blew up as an “otherwise normal Tuesday.” Her son was at school, she and her hus-



TERRA DEHART

*When we’re in love, the brain releases dopamine and oxytocin. When we’re rejected, those hormone levels drop.*

band were both at home, and she suggested they have a little check-in about their relationship. Nothing dramatic, just a chat.

By the end of the conversation, her husband told her he was leaving. The marriage was over. “I was completely blindsided,” Stallings told me. “Whether I should have felt blindsided is a different story.”

After 18 years in the relationship, Stallings was absolutely wrecked. Not only had she just unexpectedly lost her husband, she’d lost a key part of her identity. Stallings was—and is—the author of *Offbeat Bride*, and the creator and publisher of the wedding resource Offbeat Empire. Her entire career is about marriage.

“As I was filing the divorce papers, I was also flying around the country coproducing 500-person alternative-wedding expos,” she told me. “I would spend the weekend surrounded by couples and wedding vendors, and then I would fly home and cry and meet my lawyer.” She wasn’t just heartbroken, she was embarrassed. She’d written a book about her wedding (which was basically a rave in the woods on Bainbridge Island), and here she was, the Offbeat Bride, getting divorced. Everything she’d been doing all of a sudden seemed like a fraud.

“I would look at wedding pictures for my job and be like: ‘Children! I’ve been selling

you a lie! Run!’” she said. “Just from their body language, I could see the seeds that grow into the conflicts that grow into the end of the relationship. It was like looking at a baby picture and seeing a death mask.”

Experts say you should avoid contact with your ex, but for Stallings, that wasn’t possible. Not only do she and her ex share a

acute, Stallings wasn’t content to just wait it out. She dove into therapies of all kinds. An incomplete list of her various exercises in healing includes: doing mindfulness meditation, attending a grief retreat, taking a burlesque class, going on Tinder dates, shooting guns, doing Reiki, reading self-help books, sound-bathing, chanting, writing, and seeing an energy healer. And, of course, there were the many hours she spent with an actual talk therapist.

Some of this was effective, some of it not, but Stallings says there were two things that really helped. The first was dance, which helped her reconnect with her body and made her more physically strong than she’d ever been before. She got so into it that she installed a mirror and ballet bar in her living room. And this makes sense: Exercise is a standard get-out-of-depression tactic. Physical activity releases some of the same feel-good hormones as love does, and it’s certainly more positive than drinking or stalking your ex on Facebook.

The second thing Stallings did was less common and a lot more radical: This divorced, fortysomething mom hired a sex worker.

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The idea came to her after a particularly weird Tinder date. The man, a six-foot-five

**“In the beginning, I would throw up after seeing him. It was really, really bad.”**

child, they also share a wall: He lives in the apartment next door, an arrangement that seems crazy but actually makes her life, at least logically, much easier.

“This would not have been possible even a couple years ago,” she said, almost five years after he left. “In the beginning, I would actually throw up after seeing him. It was really, really bad. But now it’s like we’re in a band together, and the band blew up, but we have to keep going on tour. The tour is our 10-year-old. We make it work.”

In the beginning, when the pain was most

opera singer who was going through a break-up of his own, was into spanking. And after he'd rattled her bones (almost literally), she realized this was something she wanted to explore.

"In talk therapy, I'd been working on issues of surrender and relinquishing control. And these are great intellectual issues to talk about, but it's a very different thing to be physically restrained and have to surrender," she said. And here was this stranger, physically dominating her in a way she liked—and maybe needed. She wanted more, but the guy ghosted her, and she realized this was probably something she should work on with a professional instead of some dude from Tinder.

So she hired a professional. After some deep googling, she found a dominatrix in San Francisco and flew down for a session in what she says was a gorgeous apartment/play space filled with antiques.

Stallings doesn't want to get into the details of what she and the domme did together (although if you are truly curious, she wrote a book about it called *Pros Before Bros* that costs \$200 and is available at Ada's Technical Books). What she did say is this: "There was a lot of conversation about goals and expectations and limits and consent. And then within that container, I was paying her to do whatever she wanted to do. Her job was to help me reach my goals; my job was to surrender into letting her do her work."

Despite the stigma around hiring sex workers (which is so rare among women that Stallings was an anomaly), the only shame or guilt she felt about the experience, she said, had to do with her class privilege (she's able to fly to San Francisco and pay a strange woman to dominate her while other people can't). Besides that, what she mostly felt was elation—and peace.

"I felt like I had regained a sense of agency," she said. "Once I was able to bring my body into the practice, I was able to make connections that I was not able to make intellectually. And then there's an orgasm at the end to lock in the lesson."

The experience was so positive that she thinks it could be helpful for other people, especially women, going through breakups or divorce. "I fully believe women would be better off paying other women to do this work with them rather than trying to do it with random dudes who are just trying to get fucked."

Five years after the conversation that changed everything, Stallings's life is different in significant ways. She's got a self-help book coming out soon called *From Sh!tshow to Afterglow: Putting Life Back Together When It All Falls Apart*. She spends half the week alone while her son is with his dad, and she has a boyfriend in another city who she sees every few weeks. And, perhaps the biggest change, she's genuinely content with her life. When I asked if she's glad that her husband left her, she said, without hesitation, yes.

"My life is richer and more full of joy, and it has a greater level of depth," she said. "By all metrics, I'm in a greater place of peace than I was five years ago. I'm grateful for that, and I've thanked my ex-husband for seeing what I wasn't able to see. Everything is better than it was. It's a cliché, but time truly does heal wounds." Time and, in this case, a little professional help. ■

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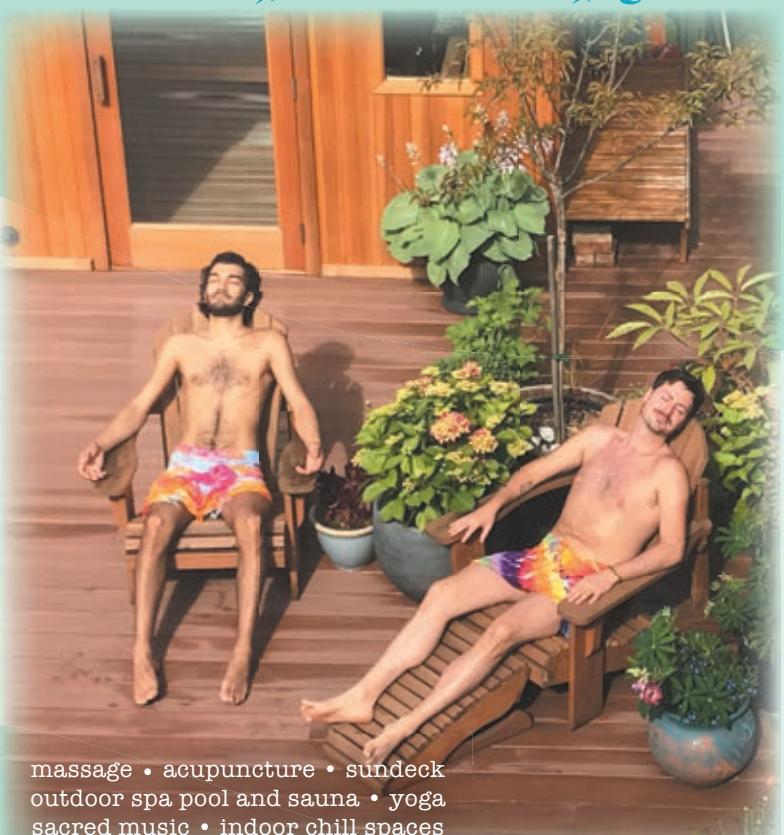
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## Can You Recycle (Used) Sex Toys?

It's not as easy as you'd think.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG

**W**hile cleaning out my bedside table recently, I came across a couple of sex toys that had grown dusty from lack of use: a bullet vibrator I received for free that vibrates so hard I had immense difficulty shutting it off; and an off-brand Rabbit that made me feel like I needed to poop whenever I put it inside of me.

As I gathered them up to toss in the trash, a light bulb went off: rather than sacrificing these instruments of pleasure to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, could I recycle them?

After briefly scanning Google, the outlook seemed bleak. International businesses like Lovehoney in the United Kingdom and Come As You Are in Canada accept (cleaned) used sex toys to recycle, but options here in the U.S. were either sketchy as hell, defunct, or didn't even have a proper address listed. In short, there was no guarantee that your silicone dildo wouldn't just go to some dude who wants to sniff it.

"Unfortunately, the reality of recycling sex toys is that it's not a simple process like recycling a soda can," said Lisa Finn, a sex educator at Babeland. While some sex toy materials like stainless steel and borosilicate glass are recyclable in most facilities, if the toy has a motor, you're shit out of luck. Some e-waste places may accept a motor from a disassembled vibrator, but tearing those suckers apart is a task.

"To my knowledge there is more interest in and aspiration toward recyclable toys than there are actual companies that do recycling," Carol Queen, a sex educator at Good Vibes, told me. "Part of the problem is the sex negativity, squeamishness, and health worries on the part of who can actually do the [e-recycling]."

Drat. So what are you to do if you want to nut and also be sustainable? Some suggestions:

**Have a sex toy exchange with an inti-**

**mate group of your closest friends and lovers.** You can even clean them all together, just to make sure *everyone* did their due diligence. Queen suggests that this would work best for toys made of solid, non-porous material like metal or glass, or silicone dildos that you can clean in a pot of boiling water, or submersible vibrators that can be wiped down. You should probably avoid sharing toys made of stone or blended silicone. And, when in doubt, throw a condom on that (used) bad boy.

**Turn them into art or useful household objects.** I understand that doing a safe-sex toy swap is a big ask and, perhaps, the least appealing solution. But crafts! Now we're talking. Grab a bottle of gold or neon spray paint and a glue gun, and your old metal anal plug will work perfectly as the knob on a coat rack. Some other ideas: turn your dildo into a shower caddy hanger, a bracelet holder, or a doorstop. If anyone asks questions, just say, "It's art, baby!"

**Use it to massage another part of your body.** Just because your junk is bored with it, doesn't mean your overextended shoulder has to follow suit.

**Save up for a nice sex toy that will last you awhile and is made of material that won't hurt you or the environment.** Props if the company you're buying from—like Germany-based Fun Factory—is conscious about packaging as well. Finn suggested going rechargeable, as battery-operated toys usually have motors that won't last as long. Plus you're not contributing to battery waste. Steer away from jelly rubber and other cheap materials that contain phthalates, and toward platinum-grade silicone, glass, or stainless steel dildos.

**Keep them shoved in the back of your bedside drawer for all eternity.** If it's still there when you die, it can be treated as a family heirloom. ■



## Love Lessons from Terrible Exes

Even a boyfriend who sucks can give you valuable life experience.

BY LEILANI POLK

**M**y first boyfriend was so awful that no one else quite achieved his level of absolute assholery. We're talking habitually lying, cheating on me, stealing (from his mom and his workplace, the latter of which got him arrested for grand theft—they made him bring all the shit he still had back to the store and led him out in handcuffs), and antagonizing my dad (including egging the house and setting off firecrackers in the mailbox—while I was still living there, of course). But that relationship and the rebound that followed were at least eye-opening. These fuckers might've been bad at relationships, but they taught me important life lessons, including:

**You cannot contract chlamydia from kissing.** And getting an STI from the same partner, twice, means that partner is fucking someone else (assuming you aren't). Granted, he'd admitted to cheating (with someone I worked with, to make it even more awkward), but claimed there was no sex, only kissing, and that the doctor told him that's how he'd contracted it and passed it along to me. In my defense, it was the '90s, before the Internet was a real resource. But you know what they say—fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice... The second time it happened, I told him we needed a break.

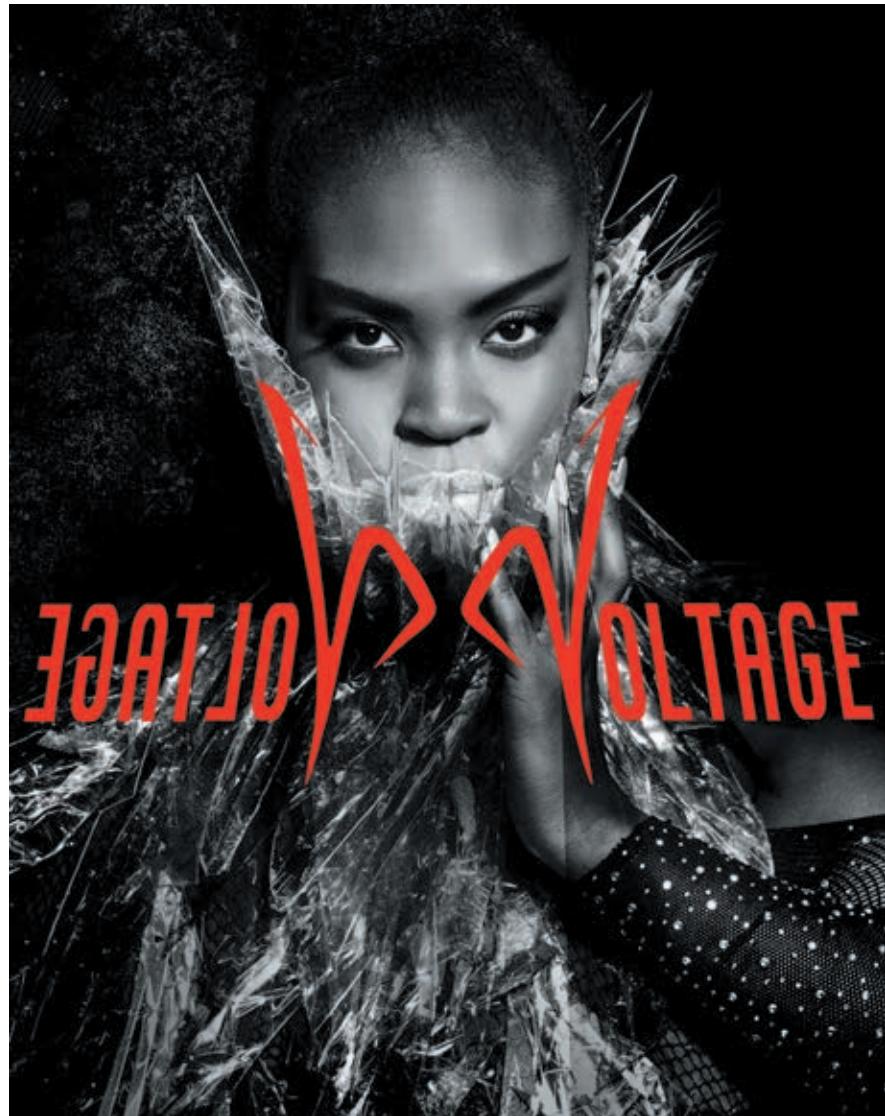
**If you're on a break, and he insists you come back to him or it's over forever, consider it done and move on.** I made the mistake of going back to him. Two months later, he broke up with me—on my birthday. *Why did I go back?* I thought as I drove to his mom's double wide (in a town where carnival and circus people used to spend their off seasons) to pick up my stuff, then thought it again as I tried to leave and realized my car battery was dead. Ultimately, he was trying to control how I left his life—on his terms. I

didn't get this until much later.

**If he can't make you come, he should be striving to rectify that fact.** For all his numerous faults, my very first ex at least tried to give me head on the reg. He even got advice from a couple of lesbians, though it didn't really seem to help. He was completely incapable of proper clit stimulation. The rebound didn't even really try; an obligatory 30 seconds was the most I'd get, if there was any foreplay at all. He did the bare minimum to get me there, while also making me feel like there was something wrong with me because I wasn't ready to go whenever he was. We broke up after 10 months, or he broke up with me. Shortly after, I ate a hit of acid with my bestie and came to grips with the fact that I was not only relieved and okay with it, but was better off being without that clueless, totally vanilla mama's boy. About a month later, we had a whole *Seinfeld* moment, when I admitted I faked it for the entirety of our relationship. He was visibly dumbstruck.

**If you have heated arguments about whether or not the Beatles are better than Elvis, you are probably incompatible.** If music is your religion, or even if it's just an important component to your identity, and you have fundamentally different musical taste, you'll probably disagree in other fundamental areas. Also, it's the Beatles, obviously.

**You will find another person to love.** Many of the problems I had with my first boyfriend were because he was good looking and I had low self-esteem and didn't think I'd ever find anyone better. I did; everyone who came after him was better. So just know that if you break up, you'll upgrade soon enough. That is, of course, if you learn from your past mistakes. Good luck. ■



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## Blunt Talk

BY KATIE HERZOG



ROMAN BUDNYI / GETTY IMAGES

### Science Confirms Sex and Weed Do Mix

**T**his Valentine's Day, couples (or thruples or quads) around the country will be plying themselves with alcohol, which, for better or worse, is an essential ingredient in any number of sexual or romantic encounters.

Alcohol, obviously, lowers inhibitions and makes things that might not be possible sober seem not just doable but actually a good idea. (For instance, putting candlesticks up your butt.) The downsides to drinking, however, are obvious—for instance, an increased likelihood of assault, not to mention a godawful hangover—and yet, humans like to get fucked up before we fuck. It's a thing.

According to a new study, science has verified something that many stoners have known for ages: It's not just booze that increases sexual activity and pleasure; weed does it, too.

In a new paper entitled "Sex, Marijuana and Baby Booms," researchers from Georgia State University and the University of Connecticut analyzed how sexual behavior changes in states that introduced medical cannabis. The study, which was published in the *Journal of Health Economics*, found that not only does the amount of sex people have increase in those states, so do birth rates and gonorrhea. So while the upside of ending prohibition of cannabis is that people are having more sex (yay!), the downside is that they're not always using protection (which is fine until you find yourself unexpectedly pregnant and with itchy junk).

So, why might more weed lead to more sex—and more risky sexual behavior? The theory is, weed, like booze, lowers one's inhibitions and makes us more able to indulge in behaviors that otherwise might cause us anxiety or shame.

"Anything that might inhibit the inhibition could increase sexual desire—even if it 'taketh away the performance,' as the Porter in *Macbeth* notes," says sexologist James

Pfaus, a former professor at Concordia University who was not involved in the study. "Liberalized marijuana laws clearly lead to more use, and the effects from an epidemiological standpoint show clear increases in disinhibited (and 'risky') sexual responses. It is not a huge effect, but it is significant."

For some people, especially women, there may be other effects going on, too. According to Pfaus, there's a growing body of evidence suggesting that some compounds, including THC and possibly CBD, can increase vaginal and clitoral blood flow, which then signals to the brain that the body is down to fuck.

"There may well be some women who smoke up before sex because it makes everything easier and perhaps better," Pfaus says, "but it also may affect the quality of orgasm, making it easier, with good sympathetic blood flow, to have one, and easier in the brain to suspend disbelief and let yourself go."

**In states with legal cannabis, the amount of sex people have increases.**

This is echoed by clinical psychologist and sex therapist David Ley. "Wish fulfillment comes in all flavors," Ley says. "Separating out sexual effects of cannabis from the effects of anxiety, placebo effect, and intentionality are likely impossible at this point." But, he adds, "Humans have used substances, predominantly alcohol, for many, many years, to soothe their anxiety and guilt enough to be able to enjoy sex the way they want to. I see no reason cannabis would be different."

So this Valentine's Day, remember, the best lube is lube. But the second-best just might be a little bit of weed. Not so much that you end up locked on your couch with your head in a bag of Doritos, but just enough to put your inhibitions to rest. And the best part is, you won't wake up with a post-Valentine's Day champagne hangover. ■



# Free Will Astrology

BY ROB BREZSNY

## January 29–February 4

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** My favorite ancient Greek philosopher is the rascal Diogenes. As a joke, he carried around a lantern during the daytime, proclaiming, "I am just looking for an honest man." When Alexander the Great, the most powerful man in the world, came to meet Diogenes while he was relaxing outside and asked him if he needed any favors done, he replied, "Yeah, stop blocking my sunlight." As for Plato, Diogenes complained that the famous philosopher talked too damn much and misinterpreted the teachings of Socrates. I encourage you to borrow some of Diogenes's attitude in the coming weeks. According to my analysis of the astrological omens, it will be healing for you to experiment with being brassy, saucy, and sassy. Emphasize what makes you most unique, independent, and self-expression.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** Taurus author Anthony Trollope (1815–1882) published his first novel at age 30. During the next 37 years, he completed 48 additional novels and 18 works of nonfiction. Critics liked his work well enough, but they were suspicious of his prodigious productivity. When they discovered that one of Trollope's motivations for writing was to make money, they disapproved. Then they found out that Trollope kept a watch nearby as he worked, determined to generate 250 words every 15 minutes. The critics hated that even more. Creative artists are supposed to court inspiration, not adhere to a schedule—at least according to the critics. But I approve of and recommend Trollope-like behavior for you in the coming weeks, Taurus. Cosmic hand will be on your side.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** In accordance with the astrological indicators, I invite you to rise and soar and glide during the coming weeks. I encourage you to expand and enlarge and amplify. Don't wait around hoping to be asked to explore and experiment and improvise—just do those things. It's high time for you to enjoy stirring quests and research projects and missions dedicated to discovery. Be a fun-loving pioneer. Sample the joys of being a maverick and outlier.

**CANCER (June 21–July 22):** I love living in the material world. Its crazy-making demands and exhilarating rewards are endlessly entertaining. Despite having been born as a fantasy-prone, overly sensitive Cancerian, I've become fairly earthy and well-grounded. I have a good job, a nice house, a smart wife, and an interesting daughter. On the other hand, I also love living in the soul's realm. I have remembered and recorded an average of three dreams per night for many years. Although I don't take drugs, I cultivate alternate states of consciousness through meditation, prayer, and ritual. I've long been a student of depth psychology, which has trained me to be as focused on my soul as my ego. In accordance with the current astrological omens, my fellow Cancerian, I urge you to hang out more than usual in the soul's realm during the coming weeks.

**LEO (July 23–Aug. 22):** Can I talk you into being more tender and openhearted toward the people who care for you? I don't mean to imply that you are currently too hard and closed. But all of us can benefit from enhancing our receptivity, and the coming weeks will be prime time for you to do just that. I think you'll find it easier than usual to deepen your listening skills and intensify your sensitivity. You'll have an acute intuitive grasp of the fact that you can earn yourself huge blessings by expressing love and compassion in very practical ways.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22):** All of us are in service to someone or something—to certain people or ideas or situations. We provide them with help or energy or mirroring or love. We are dutiful in attending to their needs and wants. For some of us, our service feels like a burden. It's grating or humbling or inconvenient, or all of the above. For others of us, being of service is fulfilling, even joyful. We find a rich sense of purpose in our devotion to a higher cause or deeper calling beyond our selfish concerns. Among the 12 signs of the zodiac, you Virgos are more likely than most to carry out the latter kind of service. I bring these thoughts to your attention because the coming weeks will be an excellent time to reevaluate, reconfigure, and reinvigorate your own service.

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**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21):** You Sagittarians have a talent for burning bridges that really do need to be burned. Your intuition often guides you to assess when the time is ripe to withdraw from connections that no longer benefit you. On the other hand, you sometimes burn bridges prematurely. You decide that they are in such disrepair that they're not to you, even though it might serve your ultimate interests to fix them. I offer these thoughts as a preface for my advice: (1) Refurbish rather than burn a certain bridge you're a bit disenchanted with. (2) Build at least one new bridge that will be valuable in the future.

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**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18):** Please don't imitate or repeat yourself in the coming weeks. Refrain from relying on formulas that have worked for you before. Resolve to either ignore or rebel against your past as you dream up fresh gambits and adventures. Treat your whole life like an improvisatory game that has just one purpose—to attract and stir up novelty. If you do these things, Aquarius, I can practically guarantee that you will win the game.

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*Homework: Avoid the Tragic Magic Triad—taking things too personally, too literally, and too seriously. Testify at [freewillastrology.com](http://freewillastrology.com).*

## February 5–11

**ARIES (March 21–April 19):** You have the power to make connections that have not previously been possible. You'll benefit from an enhanced capacity to forge new alliances and strengthen your support system. I urge you to be on the lookout for a dynamic group effort you could join or a higher purpose you might align yourself with. If you're sufficiently alert, you may even be able to weave your fortunes together with a dynamic group effort that's in service to a higher purpose.

**TAURUS (April 20–May 20):** "Victory won't come to me unless I go to it," wrote the poet Marianne Moore. In other words, you must track down victory. You must study its unique nature and be willing to match its affinities and align yourself with its specifications. To claim victory, to own it, you can't stay the same; you can't remain just the way you are. Rather, you have to transform yourself so as to be in alignment with the responsibilities it demands of you. Can you pass these tests, Taurus? I believe you can. It's time to prove it.

**GEMINI (May 21–June 20):** While at the peak of his powers as an author, Gemini-born Nobel Prize-winner Jean Paul Sartre consumed an array of mood-shifting substances every day. He drank at least a quart of alcohol, smoked two packs of cigarettes, and drank copious amounts of coffee and tea. His intake of pills included 200 milligrams of amphetamines, 15 grams of aspirin, and a handful of barbiturates. I propose that we make Sartre your anti-role model during the next four weeks, dear Gemini. According to my analysis of your astrological indicators, your ability to discover, attract, and benefit from wonders and marvels will thrive to the degree that you forswear drugs and alcohol and artificial enhancements. And believe me, there could be a flood of wonders and marvels.

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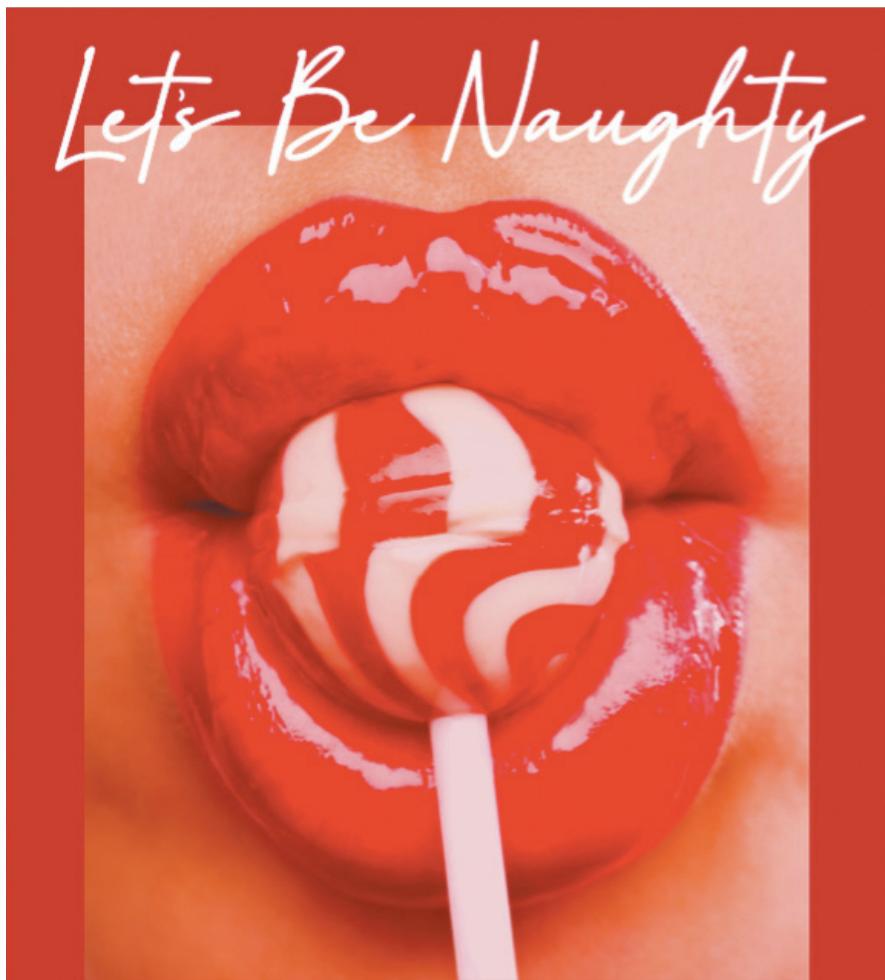
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# Savage Love

BY DAN SAVAGE

## Rain Checks

**I'm a 33-year-old woman in a relationship with a 43-year-old man. My boyfriend's fantasy is to have a threesome with another man. He enjoys watching me have sex with other men and then intermittently fucking me. But he mostly likes to watch me get fucked. For a long time, my boyfriend would send nudes or videos of him fucking me to men we met on dating apps. We would talk dirty about it during sex. Recently, we met up with a man for the first time. I don't think it went well.**

*My boyfriend and I have had conversations about my fear of contracting an STI. So before the threesome started, I explained to my boyfriend and the other guy that condoms were required. They both agreed. This guy was really nervous and when he put a condom on, he went flaccid. He would try to fuck me with his flaccid, condom-covered penis, but it just didn't work. He would take the condom off, jerk off, get semi-hard, put a condom back on, go completely soft again. Even when I sucked the guy's dick: nothing. (He actually told me to stop trying!) So my boyfriend, who was observing and jerking off, suggested we forget the condoms in the hopes this guy could stay hard. I said no and restated my boundary. The guy still couldn't get it up, hopped out of bed, and started getting dressed. My boyfriend offered to let the guy cream pie me if he would stay. I said fuck no and the guy left. He didn't even say bye.*

*I don't know why the guy couldn't get hard. But I certainly don't think my boundary should be compromised because a stranger can't get it up. My boyfriend keeps suggesting we meet up with this guy again so he can "get closure." He really wants to watch this guy at least come on me. My boyfriend and this guy have since texted about him fucking me again. I'm all for being GGG, but... what the fuck?*

*I thought this guy was kind of an asshole. My boyfriend was definitely an asshole. My questions are: If I'm uncomfortable during a threesome, how do I politely call it off? I don't want to embarrass anyone, but this went on for two hours and the guy never got it up. How do I terminate a threesome without sounding like a bitch?*

*Threesome Obviously Dried Up My Pussy*

To politely call off a threesome, TODUMP, all you gotta say is, "Hey, this isn't working for me—let's take a rain check." Say it while pulling up your pants and use your "final answer" voice.



JOE NEWTON

And the "rain check" thing doesn't have to be sincere. It can be, of course, if you're interested in trying again sometime, but it doesn't have to be. The "rain check" thing is mostly a nice, polite, face-saving, ego-sparing way to ease someone out of your pants/bed/playroom/apartment/whatever. And if anyone starts arguing with you—if your third or your primary partner starts arguing with you—don't worry about being polite, TODUMP. Go ahead and be a bitch: "This is over, you/they need to go, rain check rescinded, asshole/assholes."

And while we're on the subject of terminating things with assholes, TODUMP, you need dump your incredibly shitty fucking boyfriend *immediately*—and there's no need to be polite about it. Fuck him. Your boyfriend tried to coerce you into having sex without condoms when he knew you didn't want to; you consented to having a threesome on the condition that condoms be used. Attempting to reopen negotiations about your stated boundaries once the threesome was underway was a violation of your consent. And your boyfriend knew you wouldn't want to embarrass anyone and maliciously attempted to weaponize your consideration

for other people's feelings against you! Can't you see that? He was hoping you wouldn't embarrass him by refusing to have sex without condoms after he "offered" to let this guy cream pie you (come inside you) to get him to stay! He was hoping you'd rather risk an STI than risk embarrassing or contradicting him! And on top of that, he spoke to this guy like it was up to him—up to them—what happened next, like you were a Fleshlight or tube sock or something!

And now your asshole boyfriend is pressuring you to get back together with a guy who couldn't get it up with a condom on when he knows you don't want to have sex without condoms? A guy who couldn't be bothered to say goodbye after you sucked his fucking dick? And your boyfriend is claiming you owe him (or them) closure?

WTF?

This relationship should have been over the moment your boyfriend made it clear some stranger's dick was more important to him than your health, safety, and boundaries. In that moment—that moment he attempted to barter away your boundaries—he proved he can't be trusted and you aren't safe with him, TODUMP, alone or with a third.

DTMFA.

This is every woman's nightmare scenario when it comes to cuckolding or hotwifing—that her boyfriend or husband will pressure her to do things she doesn't want to do during a sexual encounter with another man. Guys like your boyfriend not only don't deserve to have GGG girlfriends or their fantasies fulfilled, they ruin things for other wannabe cucks, stags, and hot husbands. He not only deserves to be alone forever, TODUMP, he deserves to be kicked in the balls forever.

*One of my closest friends kissed me while very drunk, told his female partner, and now he's not allowed to see me anymore, even in group settings. (I am also female.) I understand that cutting off contact is the universally recommended first step after someone cheats, but considering how close we are as friends, it is heartbreaking to think I might lose him over this one incident. We are former coworkers and we've been close friends and regular drinking buddies for 12 years. Nothing has EVER happened between us before this one*

*very drunk night. We ended up making out on the sidewalk outside of a bar and exchanged a few semi-dirty text messages later that night, which—unfortunately for all of us—his partner saw. He thinks we just need to be patient and one day we'll be able to pick up our friendship where we left off. And while I know he needs to prioritize his partner now, I'm scared that we actually won't be able to stay friends after this. Do I just swallow my sadness about the likelihood of losing a best friend over a relatively minor infidelity? Or is there anything I can do to help the situation? FWIW: I'm in a happy open marriage and have never once tried to initiate anything with him. I've never been attracted to him before and wouldn't want anything to happen between us again, anyway, even if the kiss was hot. Complicating matters, my friend wanted to re-raise the possibility of opening up his relationship with his partner, which he insists has nothing to do with me. (My friend is male and his partner and I are both female.)*

**Friend With No Benefits**

Hmm... I have a hunch you were something of a sore subject before this incident, FWNB, however isolated. If the text messages your friend's partner saw confirmed fears she'd already been told were irrational, your exile is likely to last as long as their relationship does. But take heart: if your friend decides to reopen discussions about opening up their relationship in the wake of this incident, your friend will likely be single again soon. If they do manage to stay together, FWNB, the only way to get back into her good graces—and back in your friend's life—is to gracefully accept your exile. (Going to her and saying, "It only happened because we were so drunk" isn't quite the slam-dunk you think it is, seeing as you and her boyfriend are drinking buddies.) It's a paradox, I realize, but if she sees that her boyfriend is willing to cut off all contact with you to set her mind at ease, FWNB, she may be willing to give your friendship her blessing down the road. ■

mail@savagelove.net  
@fakedansavage on Twitter

### ON THE LOVECAST

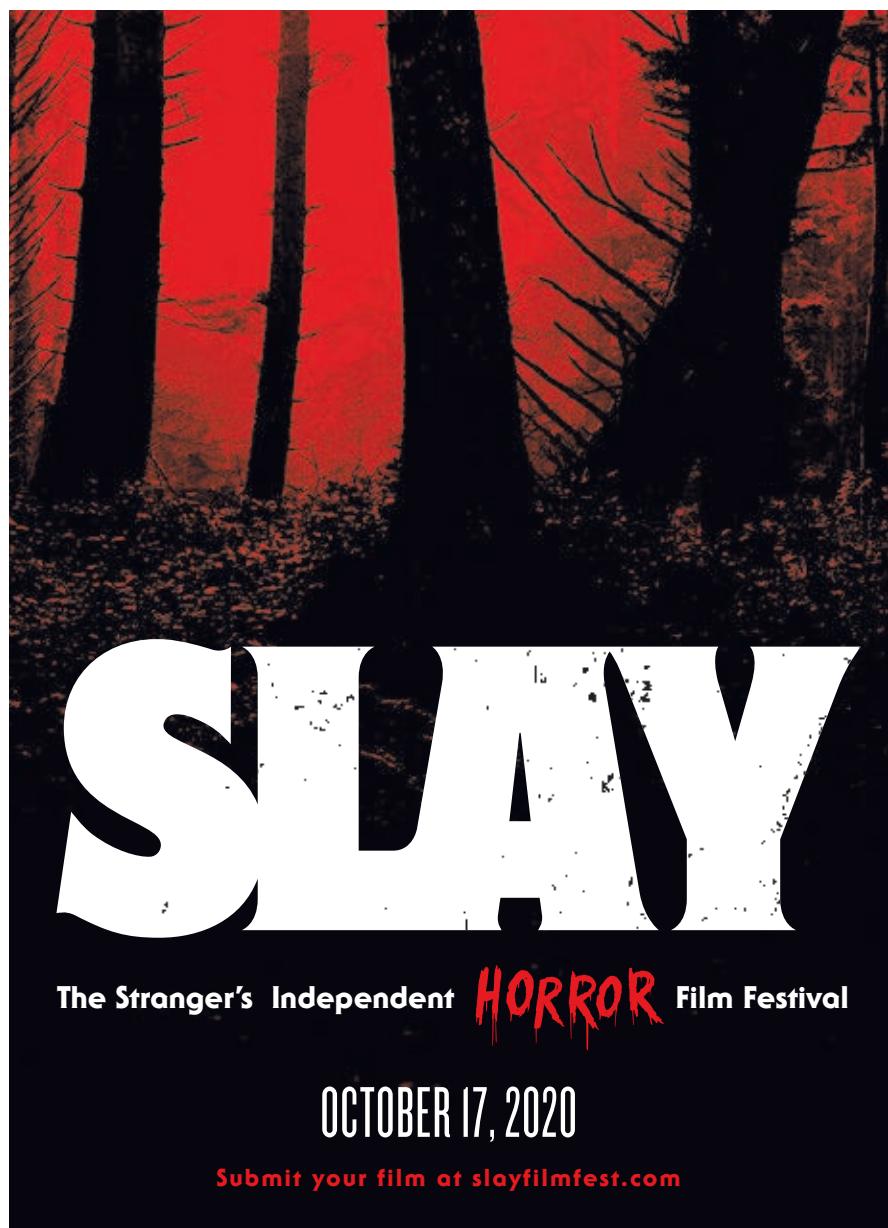
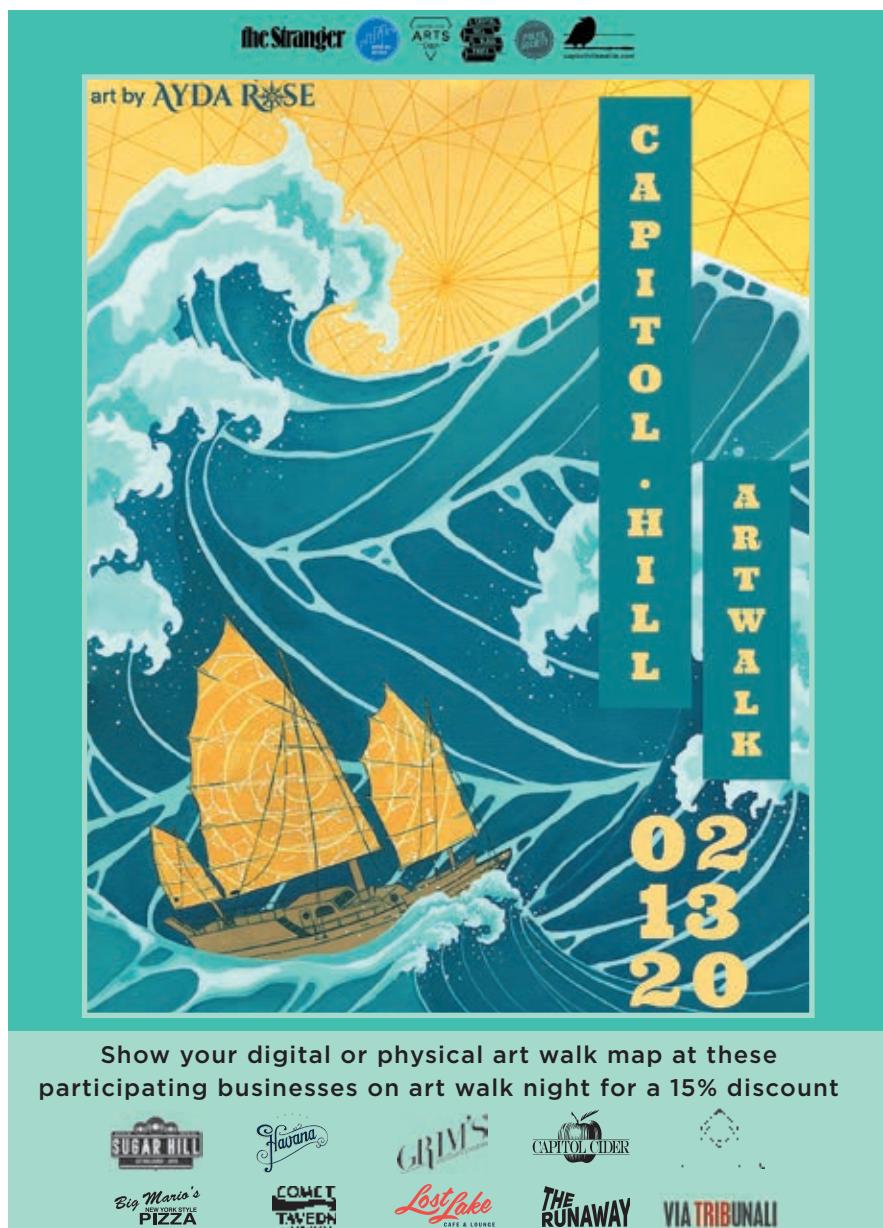
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**Sun 2/2 - Twisted SuperBall - an event for couples & more-somes**  
**Mon 2/10 - The Pleasure Practice: Touch Me As If...**  
**Tues 2/11 - Naked Yoga: A celebration of beauty, freedom & yoga.**  
**Sat 2/15 - The Practical Application of Floggers**  
**Sun 2/16 - Introduction to Japanese style Bondage**  
**Sat 2/22 - Intimate Dinners: Connection & Sensuality**

**Info: Pan-Eros.org**

**Tix: strangertickets.com/go/pan-eros**



## THINGS TO DO → Art

# Rose Is a Rose Is a Rose Is a Rose...

Emily Tanner-McLean obsesses over the flower in her multimedia exhibition at Vestibule.

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG

**R**ose is a rose is a rose is a rose. / Loveliness extreme." Those two lines from artist, writer, and poet Gertrude Stein's 1913 stream-of-consciousness poem "Sacred Emily" served as inspiration for Seattle-based artist Emily Tanner-McLean's latest exhibition, *Rose/rose/rose/rose*, at Vestibule in Ballard.

The show turns the line of obsessive assessment of the flower (and of the self) into a multimedia art installation that explores the underlying sentiment of the original line (*a thing is what it is*), and the ideas of love, sex, and romance that are attached to the flower. The rose is everywhere in this show. Through sound and visual immersion, Tanner-McLean plays with the symbol of beauty and love with a curiosity that is compelling.

When entering the tiny, white-walled art space, you are immediately hit with the smell of roses coming from bouquets in the far-left corner, lit with ocean-blue light. They will be left to wilt and rot for the remainder of the show. In the back corner is a mini-video installation, *Loveliness Extreme*, where viewers can put on headphones to listen to Tanner-McLean recite a poem culled from the pages of her edition of an 18th-century book on the secret language of flowers. Roses mean love and beauty, of course.

The showstopper in the small gallery is *Flower/Thorn*, a digital, moving wallpaper that takes up an entire wall. The "wallpaper"—really, a projection playing a looping

EMILY TANNER-MCLEAN: ROSE/ROSE/ROSE/ROSE  
Vestibule  
Through Feb. 16

assessment of the flower (and of the self) into a multimedia art installation that explores the underlying sentiment of the original line (*a thing is what it is*), and the ideas of love, sex, and romance that are attached to the flower. The rose is everywhere in this show. Through sound and visual immersion, Tanner-McLean plays with the symbol of beauty and love with a curiosity that is compelling.



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*The showstopper is the digital, moving "wallpaper"—really a projection playing on a loop.*

video—is dazzling. Here, the repetition of the Stein line (rose rose rose rose) is interpreted and played with visually. Its pattern is kaleidoscopic, set against a sky-blue background. A loud soundtrack plays over the video, a chopped and screwed rendition of "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes," from the 1950 version of *Cinderella* that segues into intense, hyperventilating breathing.

*Flower/Thorn* is configured mostly of roses and bright green stems arranged in a way that creates a "looking box" that contains one upright flower in the middle. This pattern mirrors itself until it takes up the whole wall.

Tanner-McLean told me she was drawn to wallpaper because of its function of covering up blank walls, projecting luxury and class in homes that may be a bit unspectacular. She looked primarily at patterns from around the time of the Industrial Revolution, when wallpaper became mass produced. The most common pattern was, funny enough, a rose one.

In her rendition, a white hand continuously comes into the main frame to disturb the beautiful rose in some way—flicking it, groping it, or ruining and ripping off its petals; the action is both aggressive and strangely erotic. There's a violence done to the flower. I found

myself wondering whether this violence is justified or just an expression of frustration with what the flower represents. Coupled with the blaring soundtrack, the wallpaper is a maddening but beautiful spectacle.

Tanner-McLean tells me that she's planning to host a special event on Valentine's Day, which will be a listening party of sorts, featuring extra audio components for viewers as they watch the wallpaper move. Visitors will also have the chance to spend the night inside the installation (Vestibule doubles as an AirBnB) if they so choose. To sleep within all that excess, all that color, all that meaning. ■

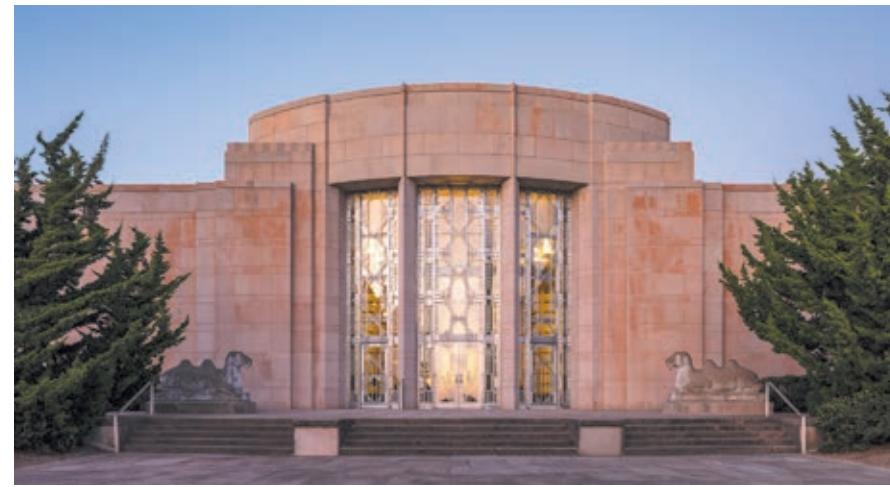
## Top Picks

### Seattle Asian Art Museum Reopening

BY JASMYNE KEIMIG

On Saturday, February 8, the Seattle Asian Art Museum will finally reopen to the public, after a \$56 million, almost three-year renovation. The refurbished museum—which had not been significantly overhauled since its building's construction in 1933—features a new gallery, education studio, conservation center, and community room; a climate-control system so things don't rot on the walls; a new glass-enclosed park lobby; and the restoration of one interior and two exterior fountains.

Another major change: The permanent collection will not be organized by country or time period, but by theme. Curator of Chinese art



TIM GRIFFITH

Ping Foong and curator of Japanese and Korean art Xiaojin Wu (both from Seattle Art Museum), along with consulting curator of South Asian art Darielle Mason, collaborated on refiguring SAAM's permanent collection into 13 different themes. They grouped the objects according to their

relationship to concepts like spirituality, fashion, divinity, material, text, and storytelling—mixing contemporary work with the ancient across cultures and regions.

This arrangement allows for connections that wouldn't normally be made in a "traditional"

curation of a permanent collection, where things are arranged by our modern conception of borders or cultures. Time is a construct, a flat circle, everything is connected, etc.

Tickets to the opening weekend (February 8–9) are sold out, but the museum will start its regular hours on Wednesday, February 12. When you go, be sure to check out *Be/longing: Contemporary Asian Art*, the first special exhibition in the space. (Seattle Asian Art Museum, Wed–Sun, \$9.99–\$14.99.)

### CLOSING SAT FEB 8

### Lauren Boilini and Hank Cowdry: 'Underbelly'

When a whale dies, its body sinks to the ocean floor, a thousand meters below the surface. Instead of turning into dust, however, the carcass becomes a complex ecosystem that nourishes deep-sea creatures for years, giving the dead whale a kind of second life. This "whale fall" phenomenon is

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## THINGS TO DO → Art

explored by large-scale painter Lauren Boilini and sculptor Hank Cowdry during their residency at Oxbow in Georgetown. Together, they have transformed the high-ceilinged, white-walled space into an immersive exhibition that brings us into this complex ecosystem, taking an interest in the cycles of life and death. (Oxbow, Fri, free.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

**FEB 6-29**

### Kara Mia Fenoglietto: 'Hope all is well.'

Recently, I've been confronted about my use of "Best" when signing off e-mails. Where I thought

the valediction exuded professionalism, competence, and friendliness, it's apparently interpreted as hostile, insincere, and condescending to the recipient. Seattle-based artist Kara Mia Fenoglietto uses another sign-off, "Hope all is well," as a starting point for her conceptual soft-sculpture installation that "examines the disconnect between anxieties and appearances." Fenoglietto's sculptures and garments will use bold digital patterns and shape-distorting silhouettes to bridge the divide between the public and private self. (Shift, Fri-Sat, free.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

**MORE** → [TheStranger.com/Art](http://TheStranger.com/Art)

### More Picks

#### MUSEUMS

**Body of Work:  
Tattoo Culture**

Museum of Pop Culture (MoPOP), Feb 1-May 24, daily, \$28-\$36

**Jacob A. Riis: How the  
Other Half Lives**

National Nordic Museum, Feb 1-March 15, Tues-Sun, \$23

#### GALLERIES

**'Scapes**

Vermillion, Tues-Sat, free, through Feb 8

**Anders Bergstrom**  
Greg Kucera Gallery, Feb 6-March 26, Tues-Sat, free

**Crystal Worl:  
On the Water**

Stonington Gallery, Feb 6-29, daily, free

**Gabriel Fernandez  
and Lisa Golightly**

Linda Hodges Gallery, Feb 6-29, Tues-Sat, free

**Golden Lady: A Retro-  
spective into the Life  
& Loves of Catherine  
Harris-White to Date**

Jack Straw New Media Gallery, Jan 31-Feb 7, Mon-Fri, free

**Goodwitch/Badwitch**

Museum of Museums, Feb 7-April 26, Wed-Sun, \$10/\$25

**Klara Glosova,  
Mya Kerner**  
Linda Hodges Gallery, daily, free, through Feb 1

**Marisa Williamson:  
The Angel of History**

Various locations, Feb 5-29, Tues-Sun, free

**Natalie Dupille Art  
Show and Book Release  
Party: In Spite of  
Ourselves**

Fantagraphics Bookstore and Gallery, daily, free, through Feb 5

**Paul Rucker: Forever**

Greg Kucera Gallery, Tues-Sat, free, through Feb 1

**Peggy Murphy:  
The Still Life Question**  
Shift, Feb 6-29, Fri-Sat, free

**Stonington Celebrates  
40: 40th Anniversary  
Group Exhibition**  
Stonington Gallery, daily, free, through Jan 31

#### ART EVENTS

**Daniel Clowes**  
Fantagraphics Books & Gallery, Sat Feb 8, free

**Georgetown Art Attack**  
Various locations, Sat Feb 8, free

**Pioneer Square Art Walk**  
Pioneer Square, Thurs Feb 6, free

**MORE EVENTS** → [TheStranger.com/EverOut](http://TheStranger.com/EverOut)

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# THINGS TO DO → Books & Talks

## An Intensely Queer Novel

Garth Greenwell carries on in the tradition of Virginia Woolf—but with a lot more sex.

BY CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE

**A** lot of contemporary literary fiction does nothing for me. It doesn't attach to my brain. It's fine. It's not intense enough.

My favorite novelist, Virginia Woolf, once wrote in an essay that "moments of great intensity" are what matter

**GARTH GREENWELL**  
Sat Feb 8, Elliott Bay Book Company, 7 pm, free

most in life and in fiction. After a funeral, she wrote in a letter that she hated "the lack of intensity; the wailing & mumbling." In

1940, the year Germany bombed London, she wrote in her diary, "I live in intensity."

Intensity is also the novelist Garth Greenwell's subject. The word itself appears twice on the first page of his second novel, *Cleanness*, a subtly ironic title for the dirtiest novel the *New Yorker* has excerpted in ages. (None of the dirtiest passages appeared in the magazine.)

If you encountered those stories in the magazine and something felt slight about them, that's because they are not stand-alone stories; they need the context of the full book to have their full effect. One quality of this extraordinary novel is the way its intensities echo across chapters, flaring up in the life of one character and then another, crossing chasms of experience, illuminating new perspectives.

On page 29, the narrator (whose name we never learn) is saying to a man who is topping him—dominating him—"I want to be nothing, I want to be nothing." This top turns out to have a cruel streak, and as he becomes



ORIETTE D'ANGELO

### Cleanness is the dirtiest novel the *New Yorker* has excerpted in ages.

more sexually aroused, he becomes frighteningly violent, so much so that the narrator flees in a panic, uncomprehending, sobbing. One hundred pages later, the narrator is now topping someone, an unusual role for him,

and as the bottom cries out, "I'm nothing, I'm nothing," the narrator notes darkly the feeling of violence surging inside him now, an "intensity or aggression... a kind of cruelty."

The narrator is an English teacher from the United States living in Bulgaria. The novel is full of beautiful writing about the pitfalls of teaching, the violence of politics, and the purpose of poetry, but the sex scenes are the most memorable. Few writers write about sex so well and with so much sensitivity.

The brilliance and animal warmth of

of a halcyon past, had not quite caught up to the newfound momentum of tech's dark triad: capital, power, and a bland, overcorrected, heterosexual masculinity." Just to drive this point home: One of her coworkers abbreviated the Mission District to "the Mish" in the same way Seattle tech bros abbreviated Capitol Hill to "Cap Hill" without asking a single soul for permission.

Wiener's perspective as an outsider's insider makes her sellout narrative feel fresh. She humanizes people who seem—to the cynical observer—to want to become drones, and she wrestles with her own slide into that lifestyle with the candor and philosophical complexity you'd expect from someone who has published in well-respected magazines. But that perspective also importantly allows her to see right through the intoxicating mists of tech optimism and describe the real power these young entrepreneurs used to wield and (though it's kind of changing now) still do. Suffice it to say that after 50 pages, you'll want to throw your computer and your phone and your Amazonian spyware out the window. (Sat Feb 1, Town Hall, 7:30 pm, \$5.)

## Top Picks

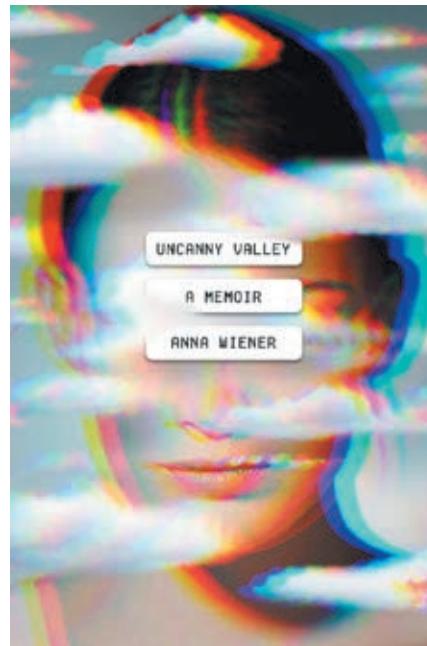
### Anna Wiener: 'Uncanny Valley'

BY RICH SMITH

People Who Matter in East Coast Media and my social-media feed have made it very clear that we all must set aside a couple days to read Anna Wiener's *Uncanny Valley*, a memoir about a young woman who flees the burning ship of the New York publishing industry for the million lifting boats of San Francisco's start-up world. In this case, the People Who Matter are not wrong.

Wiener takes an anthropological approach to her three-year stint in tech, cataloging with scientific detail the habits and fashions of the twenty-something gold-rushers and the thirtysomething corporate warriors who descended on the Bay Area to optimize the living fuck out of their lives.

As a Seattle reader, her characterizations of that process aren't uncanny, they're nearly exact.



I mean, read this description of San Francisco and try not to think of Seattle (or New Orleans, or parts of Detroit for that matter): "The city, trapped in nostalgia for its own mythology, stuck in a hallucination

Greenwell's style, the depth of insight, and the range of empathy, confer on even gloomy subjects a kind of radiance. "Sex had never been joyful for me, or almost never, it had always been fraught with shame or anxiety or fear, all

of which vanished at the sight of his smile, simply vanished, it poured a kind of cleanliness over everything we did," the narrator says about yet another sexual partner, a man named R., the main love interest of the book.

After describing R.'s "offhand and accidental" good looks, "his disheveled hair and ruffled clothes, a beauty stripped of self-regard," Greenwell elegantly pries open R.'s inner life, revealing a torturous secret. During sex,

R. makes "a small noise of desire or grief, I couldn't tell which." One of the book's many achievements is the way it dramatizes the paradoxes of men, the glowing anxieties they carry and conceal, and the way that roles (in sex, in society) have the power to trap or liberate them.

After reading one of the chapters about R., my boyfriend set down *Cleanness* and said, "Yeah, that one was intense."

On February 8 at Elliott Bay Book Company at 7 pm, I will interview Garth Greenwell. ■

### THURS JAN 30

### Isabel Allende: 'A Long Petal of the Sea'

Now is the time to read and listen to Chilean writer Isabel Allende. In the middle of October of last year, protests exploded in Santiago. These demonstrations were sparked by a rise in the city's subway fare. But the crisis is not isolated; it occurred against the backdrop of Chile's early experiment with neoliberalism, imposed on the country by brutal dictator Augusto Pinochet. In her 1982 novel *The House of the Spirits*, Allende attempted to exorcize the ghosts of that exceptionally bloody dictatorship, which began with the murder of the novelist's uncle, the democratically elected president Salvador Allende. The ghosts of Pinochet still haunt the slim South American country. Allende will certainly have lots to say about how these ghosts have returned as the young protesters on the streets of Santiago, despite the fact that her latest novel shifts the time period backward, to the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War. (Town Hall, 7:30 pm, \$35.) CHARLES MUDEDE

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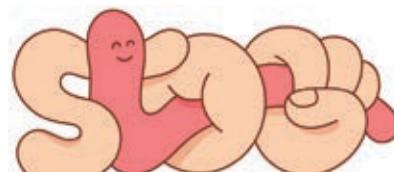
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# JASMYNE KEIMIG

“She doesn’t deserve shame  
because she masturbated, she  
deserves it for thinking she’s  
Tracey Emin.”

- SLOG COMMENTER  
[thestranger.com/slog](http://thestranger.com/slog)

**MON FEB 10**

## Ezra Klein: 'Why We're Polarized'

In the late 1960s and 1970s, the Democratic and Republican Parties were more ideologically, religiously, and racially diverse than they are today. For instance, some Republicans supported abortion, and some Democrats were virulent, fearmongering racists. As Vox cofounder Ezra Klein argues in his new book, *Why We're Polarized*, that dynamic has radically changed. Over the last several decades, American political parties have sorted themselves into two teams based on identities. For the most part, the blue team is a godless, multiracial coalition of city dwellers, and the red team is a Christian army composed largely of white men from the suburbs and rural areas. Given this reality, Klein argues, a democratic system based on compromise has become nearly impossible to maintain. When groups feel like their identity—their very being—is under attack, they're less likely to try to work out differences, and much more likely to try to wipe out their rivals. If you listen to Klein's podcast, *The Ezra Klein Show*, you know this book is essentially a product of the conversations he's had with political scientists, researchers, and Big Thinkers over the last several months. (University Temple United Methodist Church, 7 pm, \$28.) **RICH SMITH**

**WED FEB 12**

## Renee Gladman

Experimental prose writer, poet, visual artist, and teacher Renee Gladman has built her long and celebrated literary career at the edges of genre. *Calamities*, the last book she wrote for Seattle/NYC outfit Wave Books, was a critically acclaimed long essay about the connection between writing and natural disasters that moved like a poem. For this Bagley Wright Lecture, Gladman will apply her formal innovations to the normally humdrum genre of academic public speech. Press materials say she will talk about the four books that compose her Ravicka series, and “conclude with the premiere of a sound piece, specifically commissioned for this project, composed and performed by Mauricio Pauly.” I’m normally suspicious of any sort of “sound piece,” but if Gladman is involved, and if it’s happening at the Olympic Sculpture Park, then there’s no way it’ll end up being some kind of endurance test. (Olympic Sculpture Park, 7 pm, free.) **RICH SMITH**

**MORE** [TheStranger.com/Books](http://TheStranger.com/Books)

## More Picks

**Crissy Van Meter:**  
*Creatures*

Elliott Bay Book  
Company, Thurs Jan 30,  
7 pm, free

**Diane Rehm: When  
My Time Comes**  
Town Hall, Wed Feb 12,  
7:30 pm, \$5

**Lidia Yuknavitch: Verge**  
Third Place Books  
Seward Park, Wed Feb 5,  
7 pm, free

**Nicholas Kristof and  
Sheryl WuDunn**  
Benaroya Hall, Wed  
Feb 5, 7:30 pm, \$20-\$80

**MORE EVENTS** [TheStranger.com/EverOut](http://TheStranger.com/EverOut)

**Paisley Rekdal**  
Broadway Performance  
Hall, Thurs Feb 6, 7:30 pm,  
\$20-\$80

**Sarah Abrevaya Stein:**  
*Family Papers*  
Central Library, Tues  
Feb 4, 7 pm, free

**Spotlight Fiction:**  
*With Teeth* by Natanya  
Ann Pulley  
Hugo House, Tues Feb 11,  
7 pm, free

**Spotlight Poetry:**  
*Sherwin Bitsui with  
Elee Kraljic Gardiner*  
Hugo House, Fri Jan 31,  
7 pm, free

**Spotlight Poetry:**  
*Unsun : f/l* by Andrew  
Zawacki  
Hugo House, Tues Feb 4,  
7 pm, free

# THINGS TO DO → Valentine's Day

## Top Picks

FEB 13-16



### The Atomic Bombshells in... 'J'ADORE! A Burlesque Valentine'

Some of Seattle's most beloved burlesque dancers—like Kitten N' Lou, Reigning Queens of Burlesque Inga and Indigo Blue, Reigning King of Boylesque Lou Henry Hoover, and more—make up the boisterous Atomic Bombshells troupe, which has been sexing up international stages ever since Kitten LaRue founded it in 2003. For lovers of feathered, busty, glitzy fun, complemented by the antics of special guests Cherdonna, Woody Shticks, and the Purple Lemonade Collective, there's no better spectacle to attend with your friends or sweetie(s) on the most romantic day of the year. (*Triple Door, 7pm, \$28-\$45.*) JOULE ZELMAN

FRI FEB 14

### After-Hours: No-Pressure Valentine's Day

How familiar are you with the cloning practices of sea anemones? What about the mating rituals of octopuses or sea stars? At this "no-pressure" Valentine's Day affair, you and your date (or you and your friends) will be presented with boozy beverages, a live DJ, and all the information you've ever wanted to know about the courtship behaviors of local marine residents. (*Seattle Aquarium, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$25.*) ELAINA FRIEDMAN

### Lark Valentine's Day Dinner

Many Valentine's Day meals are laden with overly rich, heavy dishes. But in the midst of soul-deadening Seattle February, Lark's James Beard Award-winning chef John Sundstrom will prepare a four-course prix-fixe Valentine's meal brimming with bright, fresh, vibrant flavors: blood orange, watercress, and frisée salad; a grilled octopus tostada with mole sauce; spinach bucatini with black truffle ricotta and winter squash; and passionfruit sorbet with coconut tapioca and juicy pink grapefruit. You'll leave feeling revived and nourished—not stuffed to the point of incapacitation. (*Lark, 5-8:30 pm, \$130.*) JULIANNE BELL

### PrOn 4 Freakz 2020

Saira Barbaric and Alistair Fyrn, founders of the porn production company ScumTrust, will kick off their second annual series of genderqueer/trans erotic films on Valentine's Day, making the Forum an inviting and inclusive hangout for LGBTQ+ smut enthusiasts. The aim of ScumTrust—apart from making their audiences feel hot and bothered through depictions of the "gritty parts of sex, life and pleasure"—is to celebrate all bodies and destigmatize sex work and sensual performance. Before

the screening, shop a witchy market and socialize, and stay on after the show for a Q&A with the creators. (*Northwest Film Forum, 8 pm, \$5-\$25.*) JOULE ZELMAN

FEB 14-15

### USC Loves You

High-powered dance music crew USC loves its community so much that they're throwing a two-night Valentine's Day bash with double-digits' worth of talent to keep the decks warm and the floors full for 48 hours. Selectors on Friday night will include Timmy Trumpet, CRANKDAT, Akoma b2b Pandemic, Coltan Johnson b2b Faraday, Graymatter b2b James Gatz, and Frida K b2b Hherb. You'll hear from Valentino Khan, BIJOU, Inaudible b2b Auxcent, Lowsh b2b Thomas Crown, Mortals b2b Kiba, and Alex Bosi b2b Starla on Saturday night. (*Showbox Sodo, 7:30 pm, \$35-\$45.*) KIM SELLING

[MORE EVENTS](#)

[TheStranger.com/EverOut](#)

### More Picks

#### MUSIC

##### The Aqua Nets & The Sunset Grooves Sweethearts Dance

Aurora Borealis, Fri Feb 14, 8-11 pm, \$12/\$15

##### Bass Therapy Presents Roller Bass: Valentine's Day

Southgate Roller Rink, Fri Feb 14, 9 pm, \$25-\$40

##### Bootie Mashup: Valentine's Party

Re-bar, Fri Feb 14, 10 pm, \$5/\$10

##### Head Over Heels '80s Valentine's Ball with Prom Date Mixtape

High Dive, Fri Feb 14, 9 pm, \$15-\$200

##### SIN: Valentine's Edition

Kremwerk, Sat Feb 1, 10-11 pm, \$15

##### Tangoheart Presents: A Piazzolla Valentine

The Royal Room, Fri Feb 14, 7:30 pm, \$18/\$25

##### Valentine's Day Concert at the Volunteer Park Conservatory

Volunteer Park Conservatory, Fri Feb 14, 7 pm, \$50

##### Valentine's Day Heart-break Covers Night

Conor Byrne, Fri Feb 14, 9 pm

##### Valentine's Traffic Light Party - Bollywood Style!

Contour, Sat Feb 8, 10 pm,

\$9-\$12

#### PARTIES

##### Valentine's Tantra

##### Speed Date

Seattle Yoga Arts, Fri Feb 14, 6:30 pm, \$45-\$100

##### Valentine's Day Dance Cruise Seattle 2020

The Islander Cruise Ship, Fri Feb 14, 9 pm, \$35-\$200

Valentine's Weekend Roaring '20s Bootleggers Ball Boat Party  
The Islander Cruise Ship, Sat Feb 15, 4:30 pm, \$65-\$150

#### PERFORMANCE

##### Comedy of Love 2020

Unexpected Productions' Market Theater, Feb 14-15, 8:30 pm, \$18/\$20

##### Bubbles & Burlesque

W Seattle, Fri Feb 14, 6-7:30 pm, 8-9:30 pm, 10-11 pm, \$100

##### Cupid's Rejects

Palace Theatre & Art Bar, Fri Feb 14, 10:30 pm, \$10/\$15

##### Dark Violet Productions Presents: 'Apocalipstick'

Columbia City Theater, Feb 14-15, 9 pm, \$28-\$180

##### Heart-Shaped Box

Rendezvous, Fri Feb 14, 6:30 pm, \$20-\$40

##### Ten Percent Luck

Northwest Film Forum, second Fri, 7 pm, \$13, through March 13

##### Tyra Sanchez: Fatal Attraction

Queer Bar, Fri Feb 14, 9 pm, \$15-\$350

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Volunteer Park Conservatory, Fri Feb 14, 7 pm, \$50

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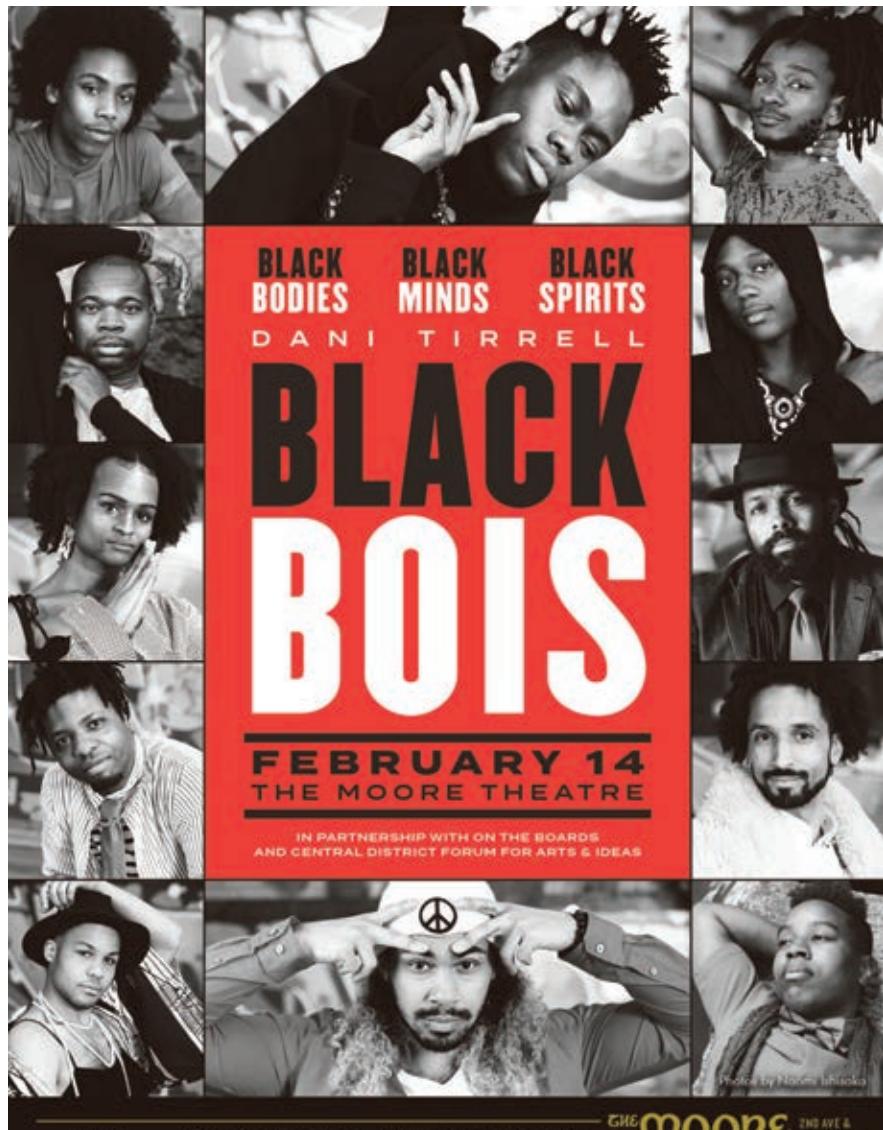
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# THINGS TO DO → Performance



Eric Ankrim (as Georg Nowack) and Allison Standley (as Amalia Balash). TRACY MARTIN

## Sweet As Vanilla Ice Cream

If *She Loves Me* seems like a familiar love story... that's because it is.

BY NATHALIE GRAHAM

**S**he Loves Me, the 1963 musical now playing at Issaquah's Village Theatre, feels familiar, even if you've never seen it before. It fits like a well-worn shoe and is sweet like vanilla ice cream.

You know the story: two people who hate each other in real life are unwittingly in love with each other in a different realm. It's

**SHE LOVES ME**  
Village Theatre  
Through Feb 23

based on the same 1937 play, *Parfumerie*, that Nora Ephron's *You've Got Mail* was based on.

In *She Loves Me*, which is set in the 1930s, the romantic leads are Amalia Balash (Allison Standley) and Georg Nowack (Eric Ankrim). They spar in the perfume shop where they both work and while corresponding anonymously as pen pals connected through a Lonely Hearts Club.

No one is as happy as they seem in *She Loves Me* and everyone seems to be hiding something. Maybe love could fix all this.

The Village Theatre's set twinkles and glows. In the middle is the shop, a Tiffany-blue box—Maraczek's Parfumerie—that has delicately trimmed hedges and benches and railings. Right away, we meet the cast, the clerks at Maraczek's, out front. It's a delightful day, and boy, do they not want to work. Maybe they could all stage a very refined little coup and have a picnic and then no one would have to work and they could all enjoy this lovely day.

Another character, Ilona Ritter (portrayed by an electric Taryn Darr), dreams of a time when they won't have to work. Maybe, just maybe, if she gets married, if her workplace fling with suave antagonist Steven Kodaly (Randy Scholz) works out, she'll never have to work again.

The shop opens up. Work begins. It's

like a perfect little dollhouse where the ever-changing sky serves as a ceiling and the clerks are the dolls in their intricate and brightly colored costumes (designed by Esther Garcia). When customers leave the shop, they say their goodbyes—a harmonized, robotic "Thank you, madam, please call again. Do call again, madam"—in sync.

But through the constant hum of music that serves as the heartbeat to *She Loves Me*, each character gets a breath of individuality. There are no showstoppers here. Some of the characters shine, and others fade into the background, all while telling us what they yearn for, or what they think they yearn for. Mostly, that's love.

The best part for me was Darr's perpetually lovelorn Ilona. "Tell me everything, I love to suffer!" Ilona pipes up after Amalia hints at her upcoming date. Ilona's rumba with Mr. Kodaly and her solo "I Resolve" were the highlights.

*She Loves Me* is timeless and prescient; dating in the '30s feels a whole lot like dating now if you swap handwritten letters for conversations over apps. But it drags and some performances get lost.

Mostly, I wanted more chemistry between the two leads. Standley's plucky Amalia steals the scenes with Ankrim's very standard and well-to-do Georg. I wanted more time for the two together, especially more witty barbs, since I revel in an enemies-to-friends-to-lovers trope. At the end, I wasn't sure if I really felt that she *does* love him.

But when she finally switches from hating him to loving him, during the frenetic number "Vanilla Ice Cream," it all made sense. *She Loves Me* is sweet. It is vanilla ice cream. Not as daring as strawberry or even as rich as chocolate. ■



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2/1 • DATE NIGHT LIVE W. CORA BOYD • 10PM  
 2/3 • BON APPÉTIT: THE JULIA CHILD SHOW • 7:30PM  
 2/6 • THE FRESH DISH BURLESQUE • 7PM  
 2/7 • DEVLI'S ADVOCATES BURLESQUE • 11PM  
 2/8 • EMERALD CITY BURLESQUE REVUE • 7PM  
 2/9 • THE READER TAROT IMPROV • 7PM  
 2/13 • HAVE A SLICE IMPROV • 7PM  
 2/14 • HEART SHAPED BOX BURLESQUE • 6:30PM  
 2/14 • JUST A PHASE COMEDY • 10PM  
 2/15 • HEDONISM & HEARTS BURLESQUE • 10:30PM  
 2/16 • BON APPÉTIT: THE JULIA CHILD SHOW • 7:30PM  
 2/17 • BON APPÉTIT: THE JULIA CHILD SHOW • 7:30PM  
 2/22 • TICKLE MY ELMO BURLESQUE • 6:30PM  
 2/22 • OLEAJE FLAMENCO • 10PM  
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# THINGS TO DO → Performance

## Top Picks

### SAT FEB 1

#### Julia Sweeney: 'Older & Wider'

Comedian and actor Julia Sweeney starred on *Saturday Night Live* in the early 1990s, made a few one-woman shows about religion and other subjects after she left *SNL*, took a 10-year break from the entertainment industry to be a full-time mom, and is now enjoying a TV comeback on shows like *Shrill* and *Work in Progress*. As for this one-woman show at the Neptune, Sweeney says: "It's my most mainstream show, where I tried to be funny the most. In my other shows, it's like, 'Oh, I'm going to talk about religion,' or 'I'm going to talk about cancer,' or whatever. This one's just 'I'm just going to be funny!'" Stories include the tale of her daughter dating a Trump voter and how Sweeney and her husband "lost our minds over it." (Neptune Theatre, 7 pm, \$25.) **CHRISTOPHER FRIZZELLE**

### FEB 1-MARCH 8

#### 'The Angel in the House'

During the Victorian era, Coventry Patmore wrote a poem describing the ideal wife as an "angel in the house" who lives to please her man, as it were. Nobody liked the poem at the time, but it became popular around the turn of the century, and its ideology was pervasive enough to spur Virginia Woolf to write a whole essay collection critiquing it. "Killing the Angel in the House was part of the occupation of a woman writer," she wrote. Quadruple-threat Sara Porkalob, who has built her career on a biographical trilogy about her cool family, said her love of Victorian-era literature and her passionate agreement with Woolf's takedown inspired her riff on this cursed character. Like her Dragon Cycle, *The Angel in the House* will serve as the first installment of a new play cycle based on "magic, the occult, revenge, blood, and sacrifice." Unlike the Dragon Cycle, the show is a thriller that looks like a murder mystery at first but ends up being something else entirely. Major reasons to be excited include local stars Ray Tagavilla and Ayo Tushinde, plus the joy of watching a writer/director exploring completely new territory. (Cafe Nordo, Wed-Sun, 7:30 pm, \$84/\$89.) **RICH SMITH**

### WED FEB 5

#### Trixie Mattel: 'Grown Up 2020'

Trixie Mattel once said that all her jokes are cries for help. If that's true, the poor girl needs an inter-

vention. The drag queen and winner of *RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars* has built an empire on morbid and strange drag humor, racking up impressive accolades inside and outside the cult of RuPaul, like a TV show on Viceland, a top-selling country album, and a sell-out tour with music from said country album. Mattel, a small-town clown from Wisconsin, has become the gay world's popular girl. Get your tickets now if they're still available. (Moore Theatre, 8 pm, \$37.) **CHASE BURNS**

### FEB 7-MARCH 1

#### Disney's 'Frozen'

I've written in the past that I have a warm spot in my heart for *Frozen*, Disney's second-highest-grossing animated film, about a princess who sets out on a quest (with a group of helpful side-kicks, of course) to find her estranged older sister after said sister's icy magical powers accidentally bring eternal winter to their kingdom. Now the Tony-nominated Broadway show from Disney Theatrical Productions, directed by Michael Grandage, is coming to Seattle for an engagement that promises "sensational special effects, stunning sets and costumes, and powerhouse performances." Expect all those earwormy songs (including the relentlessly triumphant, hard-not-to-sing-along-and-make-dramatic-hand-gestures-to "Let It Go"), plus an expanded score that features a dozen new numbers by the film's songwriters, Kristen Anderson-Lopez and EGOT winner Robert Lopez. (Paramount Theatre, \$30+.) **LEILANI POLK**

### SAT FEB 8

#### Gary Gulman: 'Peace of Mind'

Local rising comic Nikita Oster recently singled out Gary Gulman as one of the world's greatest comedians, especially for his 2019 special *The Great Depresh*. The show earned a rare 100 rating on Rotten Tomatoes. It depicts how Gulman overcame clinical depression's daunting effects, and proves he can wring poignant humor from some of life's darkest sources. On other topics, he's the poet laureate of mundane details and laziness, and a scintillating storyteller whose parenthetical thoughts and tangents are as hilarious as his punch lines. Hear him go off on grapefruit: "The only reason grapefruits were invented was because god wanted us to have something to compare the size of a tumor to." (Neptune Theatre, 7 pm, 9:30 pm, \$21-\$33.) **DAVE SEGAL**

**MORE** [TheStranger.com/Theater](http://TheStranger.com/Theater)

## More Picks

### The Best of Everything

Jones Playhouse, Feb 1-16, \$10-\$20

### Brian Brooks Moving Company

Meany Center for the Performing Arts, Jan 30-Feb 1, 8 pm, \$45/\$53

### The Children

Seattle Repertory Theatre, Feb 7-March 15, \$40-\$72

### Cinderella

McCaw Hall, Jan 31-Feb 9, \$25-\$185

### Dance Nation

12th Avenue Arts, Mon and Thurs-Sun, \$25, through Feb 3

### A Future Western: Seattle

Base: Experimental Arts + Space, Feb 7-8, \$20

### It's All Happening: The Harlem Renaissance

The Knife Room, Sat Feb 1, 8 pm, \$20/\$80

### Model Minority: An Asian Womxn Comedy Show

Columbia City Theater, Thurs Jan 30, 8 pm, \$15-\$20

### Norm Macdonald

Moore Theatre, Thurs Feb 6, 8 pm, \$35

### Our Country's Good

12th Avenue Arts, 7:30 pm, \$24-\$36, through Feb 22

### Reparations

Langston Hughes Performing Arts Institute, Thurs-Sun, \$5-\$75, through Feb 2

### True West

Seattle Repertory Theatre, \$17-\$85, through Feb 16

### The Turn of the Screw

Book-It Repertory Theatre, Feb 12-March 8, Wed-Sun, \$26-\$50

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MARCH 6 – 8:30PM	MARCH 15 – 8:00PM	MARCH 18 – 8:30PM	MARCH 21 – 8:30PM
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## THINGS TO DO → Music

# São Paolo Fidelity

Sessa's sensual *Grandeza* is a love letter to sublime Brazilian music.

BY DAVE SEGAL

So much Brazilian music from the 1960s and '70s casts a seductive spell, elevating your spirits with a nonchalant sensuousness. Listening to it is like having your head caressed by feathers. A lot of the pleasure has to do with the innate musicality of the Portuguese language and the oft-soothing vocal timbres of Brazil's musicians—a kind of world-weary yet romantic sigh. Some of the most dulcet, ebullient, and melancholy rock ever recorded has arisen from that large South American nation.

**SESSA**  
Fri Feb 7, 9 pm, \$10, 21+  
Conor Byrne, Most clued-in  
9 pm, \$10, 21+ North Americans  
know about the  
brief but influential Tropicália  
movement that merged innovative  
music with rabble-rousing,  
leftist political views that sometimes  
drew the ire of Brazil's

military government. Artists such as Jorge Ben, Caetano Veloso, Os Mutantes, Gal Costa, and Gilberto Gil proved that this genre could not only translate to other people worldwide, but excite the hell out of them decades after its halcyon era passed.

Sessa, a bushy-haired singer/songwriter/guitarist from São Paulo, is in the tradition of those greats, and he's poised to be the next biggest thing from Brazil since Seu Jorge. Sessa's 2019 debut album, *Grandeza*, doesn't sound much like his recent activities in for-



*Sessa's new record could be used as a soundtrack to seduction, or a conduit to relaxation.*

GABIREL BASILE

mer Monotonix guitarist Yonatan Gat's band or the groovy garage rock of Garotas Suecas. (By the way, you should check out both of those units.) Instead, *Grandeza*—which means "Greatness"—abounds with placidly strummed nylon-string guitar, gently rolling hand percussion, shakers, and tangy backing vocals by a five-woman choir.

The press release for *Grandeza* accurately cites as major influences Leonard Cohen, Devendra Banhart, Caetano Veloso, and spiritual jazz, but those steeped in Bra-

zilian music may also detect the intricate yet calming songcraft of cult heroes such as Arthur Verocai and Satwa. There's not a dud on the entire LP, but "Tesão Central" is the highlight—and not just because the title translates to "Horny Central." The deeply resonant congas and bongos pitter-patter below vocalists passionately singing words I cannot understand, but that entrance like a South American interpretation of "Willow's Song" from *The Wicker Man* soundtrack. The percussion and voice

effects launch the song into a psychedelic haze.

In an e-mail interview, I asked Sessa if he made *Grandeza* with any explicit purpose in mind—perhaps as a soundtrack to seduction or as a conduit to relaxation? He said that he wrote the album over a three-year span as he was traveling and playing in other projects, so he'd cut songs between tours. Therefore, *Grandeza* "carries a lot of time and life in those 30 minutes of music," Sessa explains. "It's hard to say that I had an explicit purpose other than to put things I love in music together, shaping as it pleased me, although 'a conduit for relaxation' sounds very nice."

Sessa's decision to sing in Portuguese seems risky if he wants to succeed in the Anglo-American music world, but that does not really concern him. All of his songs have been in Portuguese. "I feel very pleased with how the language

sounds, and for me it's the perfect matter for expression. I think it's a good moment for music that is not in English in the US."

Sessa's band for this tour will consist of vocalists Sabine Holler, Monique Maion, and Talita Cabral, percussionist Cem Misirlioglu, and the man himself singing and playing his treasured nylon-string guitar. The Seattle date occurs a week before Valentine's Day, but Sessa's music will stoke those romantic urges long enough to last to the holiday—and then some. ■

## Top Picks

THURS JAN 30

### The Berries, Merz Band, Bad Luck, Great Spiders

**ROCK/POP** There's something ineffably Pacific Northwestern about the Berries, the project of singer-songwriter Matt Berry. Though the twang and sliding guitar evokes a dusty terrain, Berry's voice grounds the sound here, among the evergreens. Reminiscent of the work of Neil Young and Townes Van Zandt (and maybe a little Mazzy Star melancholy), the Berries' brand of alt-country and Americana is relaxed, exploring themes of love and relationships. Their most recent release, *Berryland*, picks up where their impressive 2018 debut album *Start All Over Again* left off. Be sure to check out "Fruit" and "Passing Scene." (The Royal Room, 8:30-11:45 pm, all ages, \$8/\$12.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

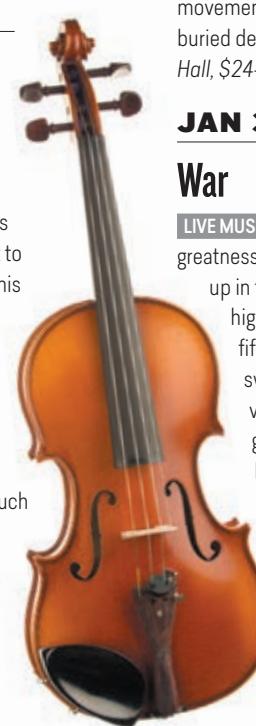
### Rhythms That Bleed: Wizdumb, Astrament, DJ Veins, Guests

**HIP-HOP/RAP** Veteran Seattle producer Wizdumb (aka Alex Hupp) is steeped in the values of golden age hip-hop, that time in the late '80s and early '90s when creatively transforming funky and eerie samples from obscure records into cinematic sonic experiences reached its zenith (think DJ Premier, RZA, Prince Paul, the Bomb Squad, et al.). His artful productions have laid head-nodding foundations for rappers such as MF Grimm, Moka Only, Silas Blak, Specswizard, and many others. Astrament (ex-Grave Babies member and Seattle musician Mitchell Saulsberry) has been creating fascinating electronic music for over a decade as Yoko Phono, Perpetual Ritual, and Astrament. Taking inspiration from non-Western rhythms, percussive timbres, and melodic structures, Astrament generates hyperreal mutations that are at once danceable and disorienting. He's the closest thing Seattle has to Muslimgauze or Demdike Stare. (Full disclosure: I'm also DJing this event.) (Cafe Racer, 7 pm.) **DAVE SEGAL**

JAN 30 & FEB 1

### Shostakovich Violin Concerto No. 1

**CLASSICAL/OPERA** One of the best things about having Thomas Dausgaard as Seattle Symphony's music director is that we now get to watch him conduct the music of his Danish compatriot, Erik Nielsen, all the time. His *Symphony No. 1* is a thrilling epic, full of intense moments that could score a viking raid. With Shostakovich's *First Violin Concerto* also on the menu, the Nielsen work will add some much needed excitement. The program also features Edvard Grieg's *Peer Gynt Suite No. 1, Op. 46*, which is one of those pieces of classical music you've heard a million times without knowing the name of it. Looney Tunes used the first



movement, *Morning Mood*, extensively, so it's buried deep in your childhood brain. (Benaroya Hall, \$24-\$134.) **RICH SMITH**

JAN 30-FEB 2

### War

**LIVE MUSIC** There is no disputing the funk fusion greatness of War, the multi-racial band that came up in the '70s and enjoyed their first career high with *The World Is a Ghetto*, their 1976 fifth LP, its title track a classic slice of swaggering wah-wah Afro jazz-rock with vocal harmonies that are at turns sweet, gospel-soulful, and deeply commanding. Its other hit "Cisco Kid" is the grooviest funk'n' jam, and one you should know as well as you likely know their cruising, best-known charter, "Low Rider," or the upbeat shout-calling of "Why Can't We Be Friends?" or the ducking organ-driven groove and talk-sung storytelling of "Spill the Wine." They're all good, and those

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Friday, February 7

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Sunday, February 9  
MECHANISMUS PRESENTS:

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9PM \$20

Friday, February 14

### LOVE IS IN THE HAIR

GLAM METAL BURLESQUE

9:30PM \$12-\$15

Saturday, February 15

### THE DROWNS

Burn Burn Burn  
Kids on Fire  
FCON  
9PM \$12-\$15

Sunday, February 16

### THIEF

To End It All  
Jason Walton  
Headstone Brigade  
8PM \$10-\$13

Friday, February 28

### THOR

Solicitor  
Greyhawk  
Point Zero  
9PM \$13-\$16

Saturday, March 7

### QUEENS OF NOISE FESTIVAL

Alice Bag, Itchy Kitty, Klondike Kate, Madame Damnable, Nox Novacula, Having Issues, Post Rapture Party Heels, Mallory, Matriarch, 6PM \$25-\$30

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# COLUMBIA CITY THEATER

& BOURBON BAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

### MODEL MINORITY

AN ASIAN WOMXN COMEDY SHOW

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31

### HOT DAMN SCANDAL

THE DEBAUCHERAUNTES SHPILKIS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

### SUITMAN PRESENTS DARK BREW III

COMEDY SHOWCASE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

### KEITH HARKIN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

### THE LONELY HEARTS CLUB

THE MUSIC OF THE BEATLES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

### RHYTHM & RHYMES VOL. 2 FEAT.

**HDN**

CHASE HENNY, JAY FIDDY,  
GIFTED YOUNGSTAZ,  
ARTBYSEVEN, CARTER WILSON

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

### STG PRESENTS NOAH REID

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

### REPOSADO

CAVEMAN EGO

FRI & SAT, FEBRUARY 14 & 15

### DARK VIOLET PRODUCTIONS APOCALIPSTICK

VALENTINE'S BURLESQUE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

### DARK DIAMONDS BURLESQUE

THOTS & PRAYERS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

### joan

with special guest Ralph

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

### SEATTLE GUITAR MENTOR 2020 STUDENT SHOWCASE

UPCOMING SHOWS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

JASIAH + \$NOT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

HOLLOW COVES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

DEEP ENERGY ORCHESTRA

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

ZACK VILLERIE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

COMO EL AIRE: AN EVENING OF FLAMENCO

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

FRANCES QUINLAN

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

FENNESZ

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

BAD POETRY NIGHT

MARCH 19-21, 26-28

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## THINGS TO DO → Music

Mike Gordon



RENE HUEMER

### Juliana Hatfield in Concert

**ROCK/POP** Former Blake Babies front woman Juliana Hatfield has her thing honed to a science. That thing—which she's been doing since 1987—is indie rock that unfailingly finds the golden mean between sweet and tart melodies, with her endearingly pleading voice lending everything a diaristic feel. The last few years have seen Hatfield on a prolific roll, including a savage Trump diss song ("Short-Fingered Man"), surprisingly enjoyable full-length tributes to Olivia Newton-John and the Police, and the 2019 solo joint, *Weird*, another sparkling power-pop effluence that proves her inspiration's still running high all these years later. (*Tractor Tavern*, 9 pm, \$20.) **DAVE SEGAL**

### Mike Gordon

**ROCK/POP** The last time Mike Gordon came to Seattle, he both dazzled and baffled, and I say that in the best way possible. The low-end aficionado of Phish—who also plays a mean banjo—delivered two sets worth of his original material, a quirky-fun, groove-hawking mix of psychedelic rock, cow funk, and space-pop, his setlist studded with the occasional Phish joint and the odd cover. And I do mean odd: Rancid's "Ruby Soho," and an encore of Aerosmith's "Sweet Emotion." Seriously had a few moments of that aforementioned bafflement. But Gordon's band is made up of pros (keyisman Robert Walter, belter and electric guitar ripper Scott Murawski, drummer John Kimock, and percussion/n'goni/programmer Craig Myers), their chemistry was palpable, and I was still getting the fuck down, as was everyone else in the packed room, so I guess it worked. (*The Showbox*, 8:30 pm, all ages, \$28/\$30.) **LEILANI POLK**

### SAT FEB 1



ELEANOR PETRY

### Dude York, Guests

**ROCK/POP** Self-described "America's band" Dude York is back and it feels like we are in sincere need of one of their raucous live performances. Composed of guitarist Peter Richards and bassist Claire England (who trade vocal duties), and held down rhythmically by drummer Andrew Hall, the trio delves into themes of love and heartbreak over anthemic, up-tempo, punk-fueled tracks. The Hardly Art label signees dropped their third album, *Falling*, last summer, its standouts the bright, energetic "Box" and Veruca Salt-vibing "Should've" (my favorite contraction). Perfect to get you through the coldest month of cuffing season. (*Chop Suey*, 6 pm, all ages, \$13/\$15.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

### TUES FEB 4



### Begonia, Guests

**ROCK/POP** Straight outta Manitoba, Canada, Alexa Dirks (AKA Begonia) has made quite an impression here in the states after releasing 2019's *Fear*, a collection of R&B-inspired songs that also touch on gospel, jazz, and indie rock—not surprising since it was produced by members of



# Going Out Is The New Staying In

[TheStranger.com/EverOut](http://TheStranger.com/EverOut)

**EverOut**



**THE triple door**  
dinner & show

**live music dinner drinks**

**WED/JANUARY 29**  
**juan de marcos and the afro-cuban all stars**

**THU/JANUARY 30 • 7:30PM**  
**kirby krackle and the nerd rock orchestra w/ lofts**

**FRI/JANUARY 31 • 8PM**  
MONQUI & 91.3 KBDS PRESENT  
**emily king - SOLD OUT!**

**SAT/FEBRUARY 1 • 8PM**  
**heart by heart**

**TUE/FEBRUARY 4 • 7:30PM**  
FROM RATTLESNAKES TO GUESWORK 2020 TOUR  
**lloyd cole**

**WED/FEBRUARY 5 • 7:30PM**  
**rizo**

**FRI/FEBRUARY 7 • 7:30PM**  
**lisa koch big ass birthday bash**

**SAT/FEBRUARY 8 • 8PM**  
**SUN/FEBRUARY 9 • 7PM**  
**patricia barber**

**MON/FEBRUARY 10 • 7:30PM**  
**albert castiglia**

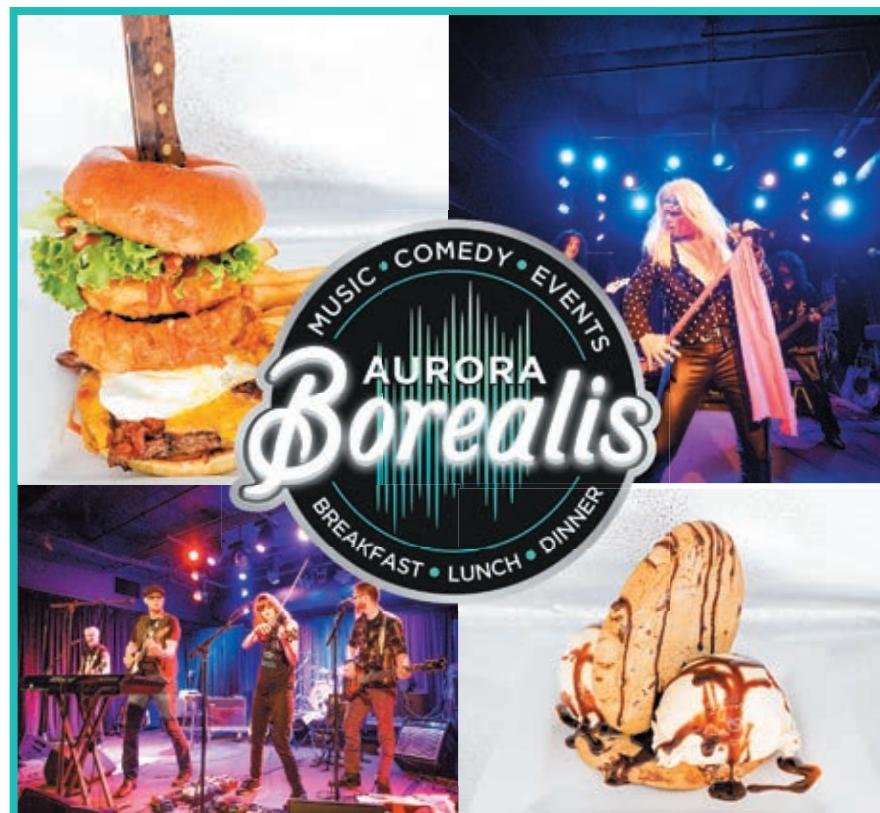
**TUE/FEBRUARY 11 • 7:30PM**  
KNKX PRESENTS  
**laila biali**

**WED/FEBRUARY 12 • 7:30PM**  
**the folks project**

**THU/FEBRUARY 13 - SUN/FEBRUARY 16 • SHOW TIMES VARY**  
**the atomic bombshells j'adore**

**next • 2/17 joep beving • 2/18 the doo wop project • 2/19 mark guiliana beat music • 2/20 - 22 branford marsalis quartet • 2/23 alasdair fraser & natalie haas • 2/24 tuck & patti • 2/25 soulsha - afro-celestial funk • 2/26 albert cummings • 2/27 stanton moore • 2/28 march is cabaret month opening night kickoff • 2/29 william duvall of alice in chains • 3/1 kassa overall • 3/2 tommy castro and the painkillers**

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**MUSIC • COMEDY • EVENTS**  
**AURORA Borealis**  
**BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER**

1/31	Past Curfew (Rock)	9p \$10
2/1	Monster Road (Rhythm & Soul)	7-10p \$10
2/7	Medicine Hat (Rock Mix)	8-11p \$10
2/9	Emerald City Jazz Orchestra	.5-8p \$8
2/14	The Aqua Nets & The Sunset Grooves (Pop/Rock)	8-11p \$12
2/15	Big Dog Revue (Pop/Rock/Dance)	830-1130p \$10
2/16	Critical Mass Big Band (Jazz)	.5-8p \$15
2/21	Problem Child: Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball (ACDC Tribute Band)	9p-12a \$15
2/22	Wyatt Only & The Wreckage with Woodshed (Rock)	830p-12a \$15
2/23	Portage Bay Big Band (Swing)	6-8p \$10
2/25	Fat Tuesday Bash (Music/Dancing/Blues)	7-11p Donations
2/28	Leed Zeppelin	9p-12a \$8
2/29	Blue Velvet Groove (Funk)	8-11p FREE

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**FEATURED EVENTS**

**1.31 Friday (Reggae)**  
**ALBOROSIE & THE SHENGREN CLAN**  
plus Arise Roots and Zion's Gate Sound (DJ Element)

**2.7 Friday (Electronic)**  
**LITTLE PEOPLE FRAMEWORKS YPPAH**

**2.8 Saturday**  
(Pink Floyd + Talking Heads + Phish)  
**PINK TALKING FISH**  
(2 sets!) "an evening with"

**2.13 Thursday (Electronic)**  
**EOTO**  
Red Giant

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**1.30 OG MCTUFF + TRIO SUBTONIC** **2.1 JAI HOI** **2.2 SUPERBOWL STEAK REVIVAL** **2.19 PRETTY STRONG (FILM SCREENING)** **2.20 DORIA, SKERIK & FRIENDS** **2.26 RON ARTIS & THE TRUTH** **2.27 BIG BAND EXTRAVAGANZA** **2.29 SADE VS BADU** **3.5 TELEPOPMUSIK (LIVE)** **3.6 POLECAT FAREWELL SHOW** **3.12 THE GOLDEN ROAD FEAT SCOTT LAW** **3.13 BLUETECH + THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE** **3.14 CLINTON FEARON & BOOGIE BROWN BAND** **3.15 SKERIK BAND** **3.17 THE WARREN G. HARDINGS** **3.20 RJD2** **3.21 AQUEOUS & CYTRUS** **3.27 MARK FARINA** **3.28 SHE'S ALL THAT '90S PROM PARTY** **4.2 HORSESHOES & HAND GRENADES** **4.3 EKOLU** **4.4 PIMPS OF JOYTIME** **4.5 HAVOC OF MOBB DEEP** **4.8 SAM BUSH BAND WITH THE TRAVELIN' MCCOURYS** **4.9 BE SVENDSEN** **4.11 GARAJ MAHAL** **4.17 BUMPIN' UGLIES** **4.18 ELDRIDGE GRAY & LDW** **4.20 DEVIN THE DUDE** **4.24 NIGHTMARES ON WAX (DJ SET)** **4.26 CHRIS WEBBY** **4.30 DAKH DAUGHTERS** **5.14 DELLA MAE** **5.16 PHUTUREPRIMITIVE**

**2.21 Friday (Jazz / Rock)**  
**JOJO MAYER / NERVE**

**2.22 Saturday (Americana / Soul)**  
**DUSTBOWL REVIVAL**  
Jared & The Mill

**2.25 Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras Party)**  
**POLYRHYTHMICS**  
"Poly Gras Quatre" with special guests, The Pulsations aka West Seattle Soul, Den of Thieves (Tweener set)

**2.26 Wednesday (Soul)**  
**RON ARTIS II & THE TRUTH**  
Special Guests

**2.28 Friday (Hip-Hop)**  
**DJ NU-MARK**  
Pressha, DJ Indica Jones

**2.29 Saturday**  
(Circus Funk / Brass Party)  
**MARCHFOURTH AT NEUMOS**  
with special guests The Cumbieros

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1.29 Wed (Hip Hop)  
**J LATELY "Tuesday Tour"**  
Space Cadet, Leviathan, Burnz & Holiday, Elusive, Leo The Youth, Freako Bandito

1.31 Friday (Electronic)  
**ATYYA**  
Thought Process, Rob Noble, Korra The Kid

2.1 Saturday (Hip Hop / Rap)  
**HOMEBOY SANDMAN**  
Onry Ozzborn, Nacho Picasso, Quelle Chris

2.5 Wednesday (Psych / Rock)  
**THE BLANK TAPES**  
Head Band, Smoker Dad

2.7 Friday (Live Electronica)  
**YAK ATTACK**  
Lost Tribe, Take It To Space

2.8 Saturday (Hip Hop / Rap)  
**JOEY COOL**  
C-Mob, Haiku, ColeZ, M.C.F., Litsims&Jodye, The Village, DJ Gerze, Hosted by David Olivas

2.9 Sunday (Roots / Folk / Indie)  
**SCOTT CLAY BAND**  
The Brothers Reed, Natural Israel

2.11 Tuesday (R&B / Hip-Hop)  
**ADRIAN MARCEL**  
with TJ Upshaw

2.14 Friday (80's New Wave / Pop)  
**"HEAD OVER HEELS"**  
'80s Valentine's Ball with Prom Date Mixtape

2.15 Saturday (EMO / Pop Punk)  
**The World's Greatest Emo and Pop Punk Experience**  
featuring GREEN LAKE BASEMENT, Happy Heartbreak, Fiore, Less Than Three

# THINGS TO DO → Music

Royal Canoe. Blessed with powerful vocals, Dirks excels on songs like "Beats," which soars with introspective, clever, and self-aware lyrics; as well as "The Other Side," a gospel-infused howler that touches on the yearning vagaries of relationships without ever dipping into desperation. Dirks exposes her life and loves through music—and this heartfelt openness is something that'll keep making Begonia a name to watch out for. (*Sunset Tavern*, 8 pm, \$10.) **WM. STEVEN HUMPHREY**

## Lloyd Cole

**BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK** Scottish singer/songwriter/guitarist Lloyd Cole shot out of the gate strongly with *Rattlesnakes*, his classic 1984 debut LP with the Commotions, and followed it a year later with another tantalizing collection of literate, ornate, and jangly rock songs, *Easy Pieces*. Throughout the decades, Cole has shown a real knack for smooth compositions that pack a deceptively potent emotional punch, abetted by a voice that suavely blends the sonorities of Edwyn Collins and Chris Isaak. This show will encompass Cole's work from *Rattlesnakes* to his 2019 album, *Guesswork*, which glazes his high-IQ rock with a tasteful electronic sheen. Let's hope the concert includes stuff from his exploratory synth LP, *1D Electronics* 2012-2014, which was influenced by German geniuses Cluster. (*Triple Door*, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$22-\$28.) **DAVE SEGAL**

## WED FEB 5

### The Blank Tapes, Head Band, Smoker Dad

**ROCK/POP** Los Angeles and Joshua Tree multi-instrumentalist Matt Adams has churned out more than a dozen albums as the Blank Tapes, exploring the psychedelic rock spectrum, and slathering his music in broad strokes of '60s inspiration that sound like the sonic equivalent of paisley, or a surfboard. Adams takes a turn into desert-stoner-, and hard-rock territories in 2019's *Look Into the Light*, and doses it with some feminine vocal energy via guest Veronica Bianqui. Standouts include the fuzzy/druggy "Took Too Much," the spooky-warped psych-surf soul-pop of "Pure Evil," Bianqui's cooing vocal harmonies adding an extra element of eeriness to counter Adams's lazy, Tom Petty-evoking drawl, and the back-to-back tripped-out instrumental-heavy odes that are "Death" and "Don't You Feel," the latter of which feels like a CSNY bootleg (with extra Y). Good shit. (*High Dive*, 8 pm, \$8/\$12.) **LEILANI POLK**

## THURS FEB 6

### Dweezil Zappa

**ROCK/POP** The foremost torch-bearer of experimental-rock musician/guitar iconoclast Frank Zappa, son Dweezil will resurrect poppa's second solo LP, *Hot Rats*, on this tour, along with highlights from the vast FZ catalog. *Hot Rats* recently received the deluxe box-set treatment for its 50th anniversary, and hardcore fans will delight in hearing that record's soaring jazz-rock convolutions (and the filthy blues-funk of "Willie the Pimp") re-animated by the devoted Dweezil and his "rocking teenage combo." Not sure who's going to be tasked with trying to replicate Captain Beefheart's lascivious growl for "Willie the Pimp," but they have their work cut out for them. (*Neptune Theatre*, 8 pm, all ages, \$39/\$64.) **DAVE SEGAL**

## FEB 6-9

### Westerlies Fest 2020

**FESTIVALS** Brooklyn-by-way-of-Seattle jazz, roots, and chamber-influenced brass quartet the Westerlies (trumpeters Riley Mulherkar and Chloe Rowlands, and trombone players Andy Clausen and Willem de Koch) have never forgotten their Emerald City roots. They'll return this first full weekend in February to host their second eponymous music fest, which, according to press materials, was created "to give back to the musical ecosystem that raised them by engaging local students, highlighting local talent, and facilitating explosive collaborations between artists from Seattle and beyond." Basically, workshops at area schools by day, and concerts that find the Westerlies performing with a different guest artist by night: singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Celisse at the Royal Room on Thursday; Seattle-based pianist, composer, and singer Robin Holcomb at the Chapel Performance Space on Friday; and NYC poet duo Phil Kaye and Sarah Kay alongside local spoken word artist Troy Osaki at Town Hall Seattle on Saturday. Sunday closes with the Westerlies Fest JAM-boree of workshops, activities, a listening session, and an open rehearsal followed by a late afternoon Westerlies concert, all at Nickerson Studios. (*Various locations*, 6:30-10 pm, all ages, \$15-\$40.) **LEILANI POLK**

## FRI FEB 7

### Dvořák Untuxed

**CLASSICAL/OPERA** The Symphony's Untuxed series is great. They only play one piece, and the expectation is you just show up in jeans, or whatever you wear when you're just walking around picking up stuff at the grocery store. The iconic grandeur of Antonín Dvořák's *New World Symphony*—a piece you'll recognize from any number of movies and TV shows (from *The Joy Luck Club* to *Ren & Stimpy*)—is a perfect fit for this casual concert. (*Benaroya Hall*, 7 pm, \$18-\$60.) **RICH SMITH**



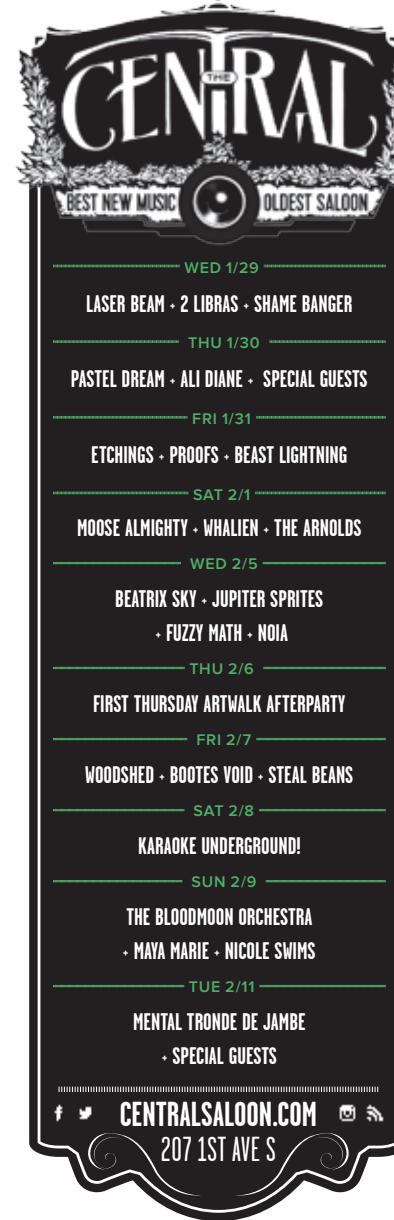
KYLE TODA

### Medejin, Power Strip, 2Libras, Black Ends

**ROCK/POP** This will be a night of ethereal delights. Headliner Medejin revels in the swirling, reverby, guitar-driven melodies of dream pop. The project of Jenn Taranto (who plays keys and guitar and sings), the Seattle-based band creates hazy sonic landscapes for Taranto to sing against. Their most recent single—and one of their strongest songs—"World's Fair" features a woozy guitar and Taranto's echo-y vocals, which are bolstered by the sharpness of the drums. They will be joined by darkwave trio 2Libras, the bedroom-y Power Strip, and "gunk pop" band Black Ends. (*Parliament Tavern*, 8 pm, \$10.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

### Phora

**HIP-HOP/RAP** If you can relate to young, emo-leaning hip-hop artists who are most certainly influenced by Drake, then you'll likely enjoy the introspective, emotionally available rap



2019-2020 SEASON

# SEATTLE SYMPHONY

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FEBRUARY 18

### TIME FOR THREE

with the Seattle Symphony

Lee Mills conductor

TIME FOR THREE

Ranaan Meyer double bass

Nick Kendall violin

Charles Yang violin

Time For Three joins the Seattle Symphony for an unforgettable evening of music. Defying convention and boundaries, Time For Three stands at the busy intersection of Americana, modern pop and classical music.



MARCH 3

### AUBREY LOGAN

with the Seattle Symphony

Lee Mills conductor

Aubrey Logan vocals & trombone

Seattleite **Aubrey Logan** has been called "The Queen of Sass" and it's easy to see why. Her concerts are a mix of excellent musicality, jaw-dropping vocals, expert trombone-playing, a breathtaking array of originals, unique takes on cover songs and, well ... fun!



MAY 12

### JIM JAMES: THE ORDER OF NATURE

with the Seattle Symphony

Teddy Abrams conductor

Jim James vocals

Jim James, the eclectic front man of indie rock band My Morning Jacket, teams up with conductor Teddy Abrams for a special performance of their orchestral song cycle *The Order of Nature* in the stunning acoustics of Benaroya Hall.



For Tickets:

**seattlesymphony.org**

# THINGS TO DO → Music

of Phora, an MC from Anaheim, California, signed to Warner Bros. While I'm all set in that regard, the 25-year-old does have something going for him. I'm a sucker for a soulful chipmunk effect, which is utilized beautifully on his 2017 song "To the Moon," with its well-placed sample of Alex Isley's "Into Orbit." Another one that might ring true for understandably jaded millennials is "Fake Smiles," which has racked up more than 36 million streams on Spotify. (Neumos, 8 pm, \$25-\$150.) **JENNI MOORE**



## Temples

**ROCK/POP** Until last year's fantastic *Hot Motion*, I hadn't really listened to Temples since their 2014 debut, *Sun Structures*, an album of '60s-soaked psych rock that I dug though it didn't knock my socks off (it felt a bit too derivative). Fast forward five years to the British quartet's third and latest, the aforementioned *Hot Motion*, one of my favorites of 2019. Their sound has slipped naturally and easily into neo-psychedelia, an evolution that makes perfect sense, and finds them playing around with melody and sonic textures in vaguely vintage rock that is both catchy and trippy as hell. It's hard not to compare them to their Aussie contemporaries in Tame Impala, especially in tracks like the fine, drug-fueled "You're Either on Something" or the urgent, doomy "Atomise," but Temples definitely have their own distinctive appeal. (Crocodile, 8 pm, all ages, \$26/\$28.) **LEILANI POLK**

## SAT FEB 8

### Mattiel, Calvin Love

**ROCK/POP** At turns slacker and garage-y, with a dash of alt-country, Atlanta-based singer-songwriter Mattiel's sound is unique. Initially signed to Burger Records, her most recent album *Satis Factory* is her first with ATO (home to Alabama Shakes and Old 97's among many others). This move broadened her sound, outside the lo-fi, DIY sensibility of her self-titled debut and into a space that's a bit more polished and assured, but still lovingly craggy. "Je Ne Me Connais Pas" channels the White Stripes while the heaviness of the guitars in "Keep the Change" is buoyed by a xylophone. Mattiel will be joined by the groovy Calvin Love, who has a strange, lounge lizard sort of charm that you definitely do not want to miss. (Sunset Tavern, 9 pm.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

## SUN FEB 9

### Mustard Plug, The Toasters, Mister Blank, The Replicators

**ROCK/POP** Take note, note takers: an original ska revival group, the Toasters, who formed in '81 and are now considered one of the groups that influenced contemporary—well, third wave ska and onward—are playing tonight!!! So, Rudies, sort them porkpies, press them turn-ups, and get your braces braced 'cause this throw down is guaranteed to get "Intensified"!!! And that ain't all the Studio fun we're gettin', as Mustard Plug will be playing some "party music for punk rockers," along with pop punk 'n' ska from two of Seattle's good timing bands, Mister

Blank and the Replicators. Let's skank, y'all! (*The Funhouse*, 8 pm, all ages, \$15/\$18.) **MIKE NIPPER**

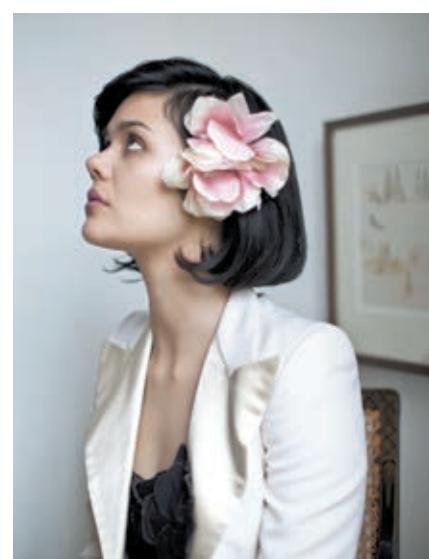


ZACK WHITFORD

### Violent Femmes

**ROCK/POP** Few rock bands have emerged on the scene with more raw vitality than did Milwaukee's Violent Femmes with their self-titled 1983 album. The platinum-selling *Violent Femmes* abounds with instantly catchy, immediately engrossing songs about young-person angst, all stripped down to their most crucial essentials. Front man Gordon Gano channeled Lou Reed and Jonathan Richman vocal tics and lyrical tropes with very relatable results. Tough act to follow, but 1984's Christianity-haunted *Hallowed Ground* proved the Femmes could go darker yet. I stopped following them after 1986's *The Blind Leading the Naked*, but one listen to 2019's *Hotel Last Resort* reveals that Gano and bassist Brian Ritchie's flair for spare, infectious folk rock hasn't diminished much over the last 37 years. (Moore Theatre, 7 pm, all ages, \$37-\$57.) **DAVE SEGAL**

## MON FEB 10



ELIOT LEE HAZEL

### Bat for Lashes

**ROCK/POP** English singer-songwriter/multi-instrumentalist Bat for Lashes (aka Natasha Khan) makes indie dream pop and folktronica that's exceedingly emotive. Having established herself as a powerhouse star by touring with Radiohead in 2008, and making big money moves like collaborating with Beck on "Let's Get Lost" for the *Twilight Saga: Eclipse* soundtrack in 2010, Bat for Lashes also put out five solid albums between 2006 and 2019. Now she's kicking off a new era in 2020 by touring in support of her latest full-length, the '80s-reminiscent *Lost Girls*, which sees her pulling inspiration from Cyndi Lauper, Bananarama, and legendary film composer John Williams. (Neptune Theatre, 8 pm, all ages, \$25.) **JENNI MOORE**

## TUES FEB 11

### Alexandra Savior

**ROCK/POP** With a voice that sounds like it was cut straight from the era when Nancy Sinatra reigned supreme, Portland-based singer-songwriter Alexandra

# NEUMOS

WEDNESDAY 1/29 <b>THE NEW PORNOPHGRAPHERS</b> DIANE COFFEE	FRIDAY 1/31 <b>WILL REAGAN &amp; ANDREA MARIE</b> BROCK HUMAN	FRIDAY 1/31 <b>THE FRESH PRINCE OF CAPITOL HILL</b> A '90S HIP HOP DANCE PARTY
SATURDAY 2/1 <b>BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY</b> A QUEEN INSPIRED DANCE PARTY!	FRIDAY 2/7 <b>PHORA</b>	SUNDAY 2/9 <b>CASPIAN</b> THE VELVET TEEN
TUESDAY 2/11 <b>SANGO</b> SAVON	WEDNESDAY 2/12 <b>THIS WILL DESTROY YOU</b> AMULETS	FRIDAY 2/14 <b>MAGIC CITY HIPPIES</b> THE PALMS
THURSDAY 2/20 <b>VINCENT</b> MELVY	SATURDAY 2/22 <b>THE MOVEMENT</b> JOSH HEINRICH + INDUBIOUS	THURSDAY 2/27 <b>AMONG AUTHORS</b> ERIN RAE & THE HEARTBEATS + BELGIAN FOG
FRIDAY 2/28 <b>CHASTITY BELT</b> LOOSE TOOTH	THURSDAY 3/5 <b>TELEFON TEL AVIV</b> CHASMS	SATURDAY 3/7 <b>HIGH PULP</b> SHAINA SHEPHERD + JUSMONI + FALON SIERRA + DJ STAS THEE BOSS
WEDNESDAY 3/11 <b>BRENT AMAKER</b> DEATHSQUAD RAZOR CLAM + SMOKER DAD	THURSDAY 3/12 <b>EVAN GIIA</b>	FRIDAY 3/13 <b>TWIDDLE + ALO</b>
SUNDAY 3/15 <b>WHITEY MORGAN</b> RED SHAHAN	WEDNESDAY 3/18 <b>AVI KAPLAN</b> PAPER WINGS	THURSDAY 3/19 <b>DESTROYER</b> NAP EYES

FRIDAY 1/31 <b>RAMONE</b> GRANDMASTERS + WANZ + BVMMER	SATURDAY 2/1 <b>MOTUS</b> SOUL VIBRATOR + THE WHAGS
FRIDAY 2/7 & SATURDAY 2/8 <b>CITY OF THE SUN</b> KILTRIO	TUESDAY 2/11 <b>ALEXANDRA SAVIOR</b> PEARL CHARLES
THURSDAY 2/13 <b>DANCING ON MY OWN</b> GALENTINE'S DAY EDITION!	FRIDAY 2/14 <b>DYLAN LEBLANC</b> SIERRA FERRELL
TUESDAY 2/18 <b>STONEFIELD</b> HOOVERIII	THURSDAY 2/20 <b>VARIATIONS</b> NO HOME
SATURDAY 2/22 <b>THE EARLY WARNINGS</b> WAKING THINGS + TIGER RIDER	SATURDAY 2/22 <b>THE EARLY WARNINGS</b> WAKING THINGS + TIGER RIDER

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What if you could realize one last dream before you die? While the body of tormented bebop innovator Charlie "Yardbird" Parker lies unidentified in a New York City morgue, his ghost travels back to the heyday of Birdland, the jazz club named after him. As he struggles to complete his final masterpiece, the legendary saxophonist revisits the demons, inspirations, and women who have fueled and hindered his creative genius. The dreamlike score for 7 voices and 24-piece classical orchestra showcases the unexpected fusion of a flexible operatic tenor with the fluid improvisational spirit of bebop: a "terrific" (Wall Street Journal) match made in music heaven.

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# THE CROCODILE



**1/31**  
FRIDAY 

*The Crocodile Presents:  
Boombox  
Ethno 21 & Over*

**2/1**  
SATURDAY 

*The Crocodile Presents:  
Jonah Ray @ Fremont Abbey  
All Ages*

**2/1**  
SATURDAY 

*Carrie Akre  
Warren Dunes, Mirrorglass, Ty Willman  
21 & Over*

**2/4 - 2/6**  
TUE, WED, THU 

*El Corazon Presents:  
The Reverend Horton Heat  
The Buttertones, The Dusty 45's  
21 & Over*

**2/5**  
WEDNESDAY 

*The Crocodile Presents:  
Young Dolph  
Key Glock, All Ages*

**2/6**  
THURSDAY 

*The Crocodile Presents:  
Goth Babe @ Neumos  
Reptaliens All Ages*

**FEATURED** 

Mon & Tue  
3/23 & 3/24  
BUILT TO SPILL



Mon 4/20  
SLEAFORD MODS



Tue 5/12  
WAVVES

**2/7** TEMPLES **2/8** AUTOGRAPH **2/10** RUN RIVER NORTH **2/11** TEDDY SWIMS **2/12** TENDER **2/13** COLT FORD **2/14** TRL w/ SMASHMOUTH'S STEVE HARWELL **2/15** THE CLASSIC CRIME **2/16** YOLA **2/17** PALACE **2/19** EZRA FURMAN **2/20** SET IT OFF **2/21** THE BEST 80'S PARTY EVER! (SO FAR) w/ TIFFANY **2/22** BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL **2/23** THE JUNGLE GIANTS **2/26** RAPSODY **2/27** VIOLENT JAMS **2/28** LAWRENCE **2/29** GRIEVES

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NATIVE SIBLING  
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**WESTERN STATE HURRICANES**  
NEVADA BACHELORS  
9PM \$30

**Sunday 2/9**  
KEXP PRESENTS  
**CASPAR ADULTPANTS**  
KINGS OF HAWAII  
8PM \$13/\$15

**Friday 2/14**  
THE QUEEN OF THE MINOR KEY  
**EILEN JEWELL**  
8:30PM \$22/\$25

**Saturday 2/15**  
KEXP PRESENTS  
**THE CAVE SINGERS**  
9PM \$20

**Wednesday 2/19**  
FREAKOUT RECORDS PRESENTS  
**PART TIME GARY WILSON**  
8PM \$15

**Thursday 2/20**  
SOLID COUNTRY GOLD  
**MIKE & THE MOONPIES**  
QUAKER CITY NIGHTHAWKS  
8PM \$12/\$15

**Sunday 2/23**  
PUNK-TINGED AMERICANA  
**CARSIE BLANTON**  
8PM \$15/\$17

**Tuesday 2/25**  
KEXP PRESENTS  
**THE TRUE LOVES**  
BIRCH PEREIRA & THE GIN JOINTS  
8PM \$20

**Saturday 2/22**  
91.3 KBCS PRESENTS  
**TALL HEIGHTS**  
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# THINGS TO DO → Music

Savior conjures haunted dolls, patterned carpet, and the chill of a forest in winter in her music. It's cinematic. And full of longing. After working with Alex Turner on her 2017 debut album *Belladonna of Sadness* (which admittedly reminds me of Arctic Monkeys' *Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino*), her latest album, *The Archer*, borrows all the old-school synthesizers and pairs it with a 1970s Italian horror mood. "Crying All the Time" purrs with a woozy sophisticated sadness while "Howl" shimmers with synths, held down by an ominous bass line. (*Barboza*, 8 pm, \$11/\$13.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

## The Crocodile Presents: C.W. Stoneking, Guests

**BLUES/COUNTRY/FOLK** Australian singer-songwriter/banjo player C.W. Stoneking is the definition of an old soul. The blues artist was as an ideal act for the hot-and-dusty Pickathon music festival, where in 2016, he no-doubt turned swarms of absent-minded (read: stoned) listeners into faithful fans with wholesome renditions of "On a Desert Isle" and "Gon Boogaloo," the '60s-harkening title track from his 2014 full-length. Sunset Tavern is exactly the kind of intimate venue you'd want to be at while hearing Stoneking's gritty vocals and superb "Jailhouse Blues" finger-picking. Always true to style, expect to see Stoneking dressed in his typical clean, all-white garb, and possibly a bowtie. (*Sunset Tavern*, 8:30 pm, \$20.) **JENNI MOORE**

## Sango, Savon

**HIP-HOP/RAP** Seattle-based DJ and producer Sango pulls from Brazilian funk, hip-hop, rap, and R&B to create sounds that get worked into your brain. His New Orleans bounce remix of Frank Ocean's "Nights" keeps the melancholic mood of the original, but adds a beat you can throw your ass around to.

It's a master work. His "Thank You Weezy" track flips Lil Wayne's "Cannon," giving it a throbbing bass line and some soulful, pitched-up vocals. It has definitely saved my life at least a couple of times. Recently, Sango dropped a second album with R&B singer Xavier Omär, *Moments Spent Loving You*, and produced Grand Rapids rapper Waldo's *Grove*. (*Neumos*, 8 pm, all ages, \$22-\$25.) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

**WED FEB 12**



LUZ GALLARDO

## Luna Performing Bewitched

**ROCK/POP** So, it looks like Luna already have become a legacy act. Performing entire albums for an adoring cult has resulted in lucrative paydays for artists of a certain age, and now Dean Wareham, Britta Phillips, and their fellow Velvet Underground acolytes are cashing in on the nostalgia craze. Tuesday's show for their mellow, golden 1995 LP *Penthouse* has sold out, so fans should not sleep on tix for Wednesday's *Bewitched* airing. Released in 1994, *Bewitched* increases the tempo of Wareham's former group, Galaxie 500, while maintaining the lyrical poignancy and melodic beauty of that influential trio. This record has some of Luna's greatest songs ("Tiger Lily," "I Know You Tried," "Friendly Advice"); it's a banquet for sensitive-folk indie-rock obsessives. (*Tractor Tavern*, 8 pm, \$32.) **DAVE SEGAL**

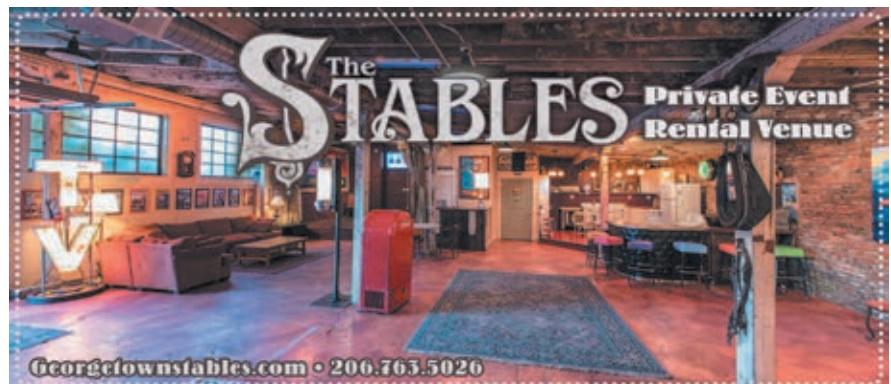
**MORE** [TheStranger.com/Music](http://TheStranger.com/Music)

## More Picks

- American Authors, Magic Giant, Public**  
The Showbox, Sat Feb 8, 8:30 pm, all ages, \$25/\$30
- Anjunabeats World Wide 09 Tour**  
The Underground, Fri Feb 7, 10 pm, \$25-\$30
- Ben Lee**  
Sunset Tavern, Fri Jan 31, 8:30 pm, \$16
- Ben Ottewell & Ian Ball of Gomez**  
Barboza, Mon Feb 3, 8 pm, \$21
- BlackHot Birthday Benefit!** Adra Boo, Silk Safari, Mirrorgloss, Bess & Amber  
Lo-Fi Performance Gallery, Fri Jan 31, 9 pm, \$8/\$10
- Caspian**  
Neumos, Sun Feb 9, 8 pm, all ages, \$19/\$22
- Dan Rosenboom, Bad Luck**  
The Royal Room, Tues Feb 11, 8:15 pm, \$10
- Daniel Champagne**  
Egan's Ballard Jam House, Thurs Jan 30, 7 pm, \$10
- Dark Star Orchestra**  
The Showbox, Thurs Feb 6, 8 pm, \$30/\$33
- Ekali**  
Showbox Sodo, Feb 6-7, 9 pm, \$30/\$35
- Emily King**  
Triple Door, Fri Jan 31, 8 pm, all ages, \$33-\$79 (sold out)
- Eric Hutchinson**  
Substation, Wed Feb 12, 8 pm, \$23/\$25
- The Folks Project**  
Triple Door, Wed Feb 12, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$15/\$20
- Genghis Barbie: 2 Legit World Domination Tour**  
The Royal Room, Wed Feb 5, 7:30-11 pm, \$18
- Goth Babe, Guests**  
Neumos, Thurs Feb 6, 8 pm, all ages, \$15/\$18
- Gregory Porter**  
Moore Theatre, Sat Feb 8, 8 pm, \$42-\$53
- Homeboy Sandman, Nacho Picasso, Onry Ozzborn, DIVEYEDE, Quelle Chris**  
High Dive, Sat Feb 1, 9 pm, \$12/\$15
- J Dilla Birthday Party and Tribute with Vitamin D and The Carlos Overall Quartet**  
The Royal Room, Fri Feb 7, 8:30-11:45 pm, all ages, \$15
- Keith Harkin**  
Columbia City Theater, Sun Feb 2, 7-10 pm, \$35-\$75
- KEXP Presents: Caspar Adultpants, King of Hawaii**  
Tractor Tavern, Sun Feb 9, 8 pm, \$13

- Kirby Krackle and the Nerd Rock Orchestra, Lofts**  
Triple Door, Thurs Jan 30, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$20/\$25
- KPH & The Canary Collective, Mutual Benefit, Namii**  
Fremont Abbey Arts Center, Sat Feb 8, 6 pm, all ages, \$16-25
- Laila Biali**  
Triple Door, Tues Feb 11, 7:30 pm, all ages, \$15/\$18
- Left At London, VALENTINE, move.by.u**  
Chop Suey, Thurs Feb 6, 8 pm, \$8/\$10
- Spread Presents: Samara Lennox**  
Belltown Yacht Club, Fri Jan 31, 9 pm, \$10
- Loudon Wainwright III**  
Benaroya Hall, Wed Feb 5, 7:30 pm, \$30-\$40
- Pink Talking Fish**  
Nectar, Sat Feb 8, 9 pm, \$18-\$22
- This Will Destroy You, Amulets**  
Neumos, Wed Feb 12, 7 pm, \$18/\$20
- Noah Reid**  
Columbia City Theater, Wed Feb 12, 8 pm, all ages, \$25
- Pinegrov, LAKE**  
Neptune Theatre, Wed Feb 12, 8 pm, all ages, \$19/\$23
- Reverend Horton Heat, The Buttertones, The Dusty 45's, Bloodshot Bill**  
Crocodile, Feb 4-6, 7 pm, \$31/\$33
- Young Dolph & Key Glock**  
The Showbox, Wed Feb 5, 9 pm, all ages, \$36/\$40

**MORE EVENTS** [TheStranger.com/EverOut](http://TheStranger.com/EverOut)



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# THINGS TO DO → Music

## Early Warnings

DASHBOARD CONFESSIONAL, PIEBALD *The Showbox, Tues Feb 18, 8:30 pm, \$35*

BRANDI CARLILE WITH SEATTLE SYMPHONY, THE SECRET SISTERS *Benaroya Hall, Feb 21-23*

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE, THE BLACK TONES *The Showbox, Feb 24-26, 8 pm, \$60*

YOUNG M.A. *Neumos, Tues March 10, 8 pm, \$23/\$25*

LAUREN SANDERSON *Columbia City Theater, Wed March 11, 8 pm*

PATTI SMITH AND HER BAND *Paramount Theatre, Wed March 11, 8 pm, \$41-\$66*

BUILT TO SPILL, PRIMS BITCH *Crocodile, March 23-24, 8 pm, \$30*

AN EVENING WITH THE MONKEES *Moore Theatre, Sat April 4, 8 pm, \$37-\$87*

CAMILO SÉPTIMO *Crocodile, Sat April 11, 8 pm, \$25*

BLOCK PARTY PRESENTS: JENNY HVAL WITH SPECIAL GUESTS *Benaroya Hall, Mon April 13, 8 pm, \$30*

THE DARKNESS, THE DEAD DEADS *The Showbox, Sat April 18, 9 pm, \$25/\$30*

SLEAFORD MODS, GIRL BAND *Crocodile, Mon April 20, 8 pm, \$23*

STEVE AOKI *Showbox Sodo, Mon April 20, 8 pm, \$40/\$45*

HOT CHELLE RAE *Neumos, Sun April 26, 7 pm, \$27-\$75*

BOMBAY BICYCLE CLUB, SPORTS TEAM *The Showbox, Thurs April 30, 8:30 pm, \$35/\$40*

KURT VILE, CATE LE BON, STELLA MOZGAWA, STEPHEN BLACK *Neptune Theatre, Thurs April 30, 8 pm, \$36*

DEAFHEAVEN, INTER ARMA, ALL YOUR SISTERS *Neumos, Fri May 1, 8 pm, \$25/\$30*

DINAH JANE, GUESTS *Columbia City Theater, Tues May 5, 7:30 pm, \$18/\$20*

KEVIN DEVINE & JOHN K. SAMSON, WORRIERS *Columbia City Theater, Fri May 8, 8 pm, \$20/\$25*

WAVVES, SADGIRL *Crocodile, Tues May 12, 8 pm, \$20*

VAGABON, KAINA *Neumos, Wed May 13, 7 pm, \$18-\$22*

JUSTIN BIEBER *CenturyLink Field, Thurs May 14, 7 pm, \$48-\$1600*

THE AVETT BROTHERS *WaMu Theater, Fri May 15, 8 pm, \$42-\$77*

THE GLITCH MOB, IVY LAB *Showbox Sodo, Fri May 15, 9 pm, \$20-\$40*

JAI WOLF, KASBO, HOTEL GARUDA *WaMu Theater, Sat May 16, 8 pm, \$30-\$40*

TOKIMONSTA *The Showbox, Sat May 16, 9 pm, \$20/\$25*

GREG DULLI OF AFGHAN WHIGS, JOSEPH ARTHUR *The Showbox, Sat May 23, 9 pm, \$30/\$35*

THE FRATELLIS *The Showbox, Tues June 2, 8 pm, \$25*

HALSEY, CHVRCHES, OMAR APOLLO *White River Amphitheatre, Tues June 2, 7 pm*

STEELY DAN WITH SPECIAL GUEST STEVE WINWOOD *White River Amphitheatre, Thurs June 4, 7:30 pm*

HALL & OATES, SQUEEZE, KT TUNSTALL *White River Amphitheatre, Fri June 5, 7 pm*

BON JOVI WITH BRYAN ADAMS *Tacoma Dome, Wed June 10, 7:30 pm*

MINISTRY, KMFDM, FRONT LINE ASSEMBLY *Showbox Sodo, Wed July 1, 7 pm, \$40/\$45*

TAME IMPALA *Gorge Amphitheatre, Fri Aug 7, 8 pm, \$109/\$219*

THE LUMINEERS, GREGORY ALAN ISAKOV, DANIEL RODRIGUEZ *Gorge Amphitheatre, Sat Aug 15, 7 pm*

HARRY STYLES, JENNY LEWIS *Tacoma Dome, Tues Aug 18*

ALICIA KEYS *WaMu Theater, Sun Aug 30, 8 pm*

DAVE MATTHEWS BAND *Gorge Amphitheatre, Sept 4-6, 5 pm*

TY SEGALL AND THE FREEDOM BAND *The Showbox, Sun Sept 20, 9 pm, \$30/\$32*

## THE Royal Room

### Valentine's Date Night Ideas!

#### Feb 21 | 8:00pm

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Mardi Gras in New Orleans: Remembering Dr. John & Art Neville

#### Feb 24 | 7:30pm

188 Sullivan: Charlie Parker's New York in the '50s  
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\$10Student w/ ID

#### Feb 25 | 6:30pm

Entry by Donation Fat Tuesday w/ Seattle JazzEd and The Meters

#### Feb 16 | 7:00pm

Kaze

#### Feb 20 | 7:30pm

Kathryn Claire  
Tekla Waterfield  
Jeff Fielder

#### Feb 28 | 9:00pm

Mike Clark  
Wil Blades  
Skerik

#### More Shows!!

1.30 The Berries//Merz Band  
Bad Luck//Great Spiders  
2.6 The Westerlies feat. Celisse Henderson  
2.8 The Highsteppers//Julia Francis Band  
2.29 Mike Dillon Band  
feat. Brad Houser & Brian Haas  
3.4 Jonathan Barber  
3.6 Sam Boshnack Quintet  
w/ Adriana Giordano & Marina Albero  
3.17 Jenny Scheinman & Allison Miller's Parlour Game  
3.27 Planet Fly//Reposado  
3.28 Comedy Night: Steve Hofstetter

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**FEB. 8**

LED ZEP AGAIN  
LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE

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SAT FEB 1  
7PM LIVE LATIN/CUBAN MUSIC  
10PM THE NEW TRIUMPH LIVE AFRO/LATIN/JAZZ/FUNK \$12

WED FEB 5  
8PM LELE LIVE BLUES/FOLK +  
10PM EVAN FLORY BARNES BAND \*FREE

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# THINGS TO DO → Music

## Thurs 1/30

### LIVE MUSIC

**BARBOZA** Black Nite Crash, Stres, Moon Palace, 8 pm, \$9/\$11

**BELLCITY YACHT CLUB** Fever Feel, Golden Ruins, Last Chance Family Band, 8:30 pm, \$10

★ **CHAPEL PERFORMANCE** SPACE Mark Hilliard Wilson: The Presence of Absence, 8 pm, \$5-\$15

**CHOP SUEY** Before Our Time, Smallest Bear with the Biggest Paws, Yada Yada, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

**CONOR BYRNE** Patrick Carpenter, Nora Rothman, The Prairie Fire, 8 pm

**THE FUNHOUSE** Phood, Dead Sonics, 9 pm, \$6/\$8

**LO-FI** Utld.003: Low Fidelity, 8 pm, \$7

**NECTAR** OG McTuff, Trio Subtonic, 8 pm, \$10

★ **NEPTUNE** The New Pornographers, Diane Coffee, 8 pm, \$34, all ages

▲ **THE SHOWBOX** Lil Tjay, 8:30 pm, \$28/\$32 (sold out)

**SPANISH BALLROOM** Super Diamond, 7-10 pm, \$20

**SUNSET TAVERN** Hollow Bodies, Medejin, Outdoor Voices, 8 pm, \$10

**TIMBRE ROOM** Solstis, MYXA, LNR THRY, 8:30 pm, \$10

**TRACTOR TAVERN** Jaeden Luke, Mags McLean, Velvet Mornings, 8 pm, \$10

### JAZZ

**VERMILLION** Wally Shoup & Al Hashimoto, C. Adams & T. Scully, Sam Yoder, 8 pm, \$5-\$15

## Fri 1/31

### LIVE MUSIC

**AURORA BOREALIS** Past Curfew, 9-11:45 pm, \$10

**BARBOZA** Ramone, Grandmasters, Wan, BMMR, 7 pm, \$8/\$10

▲ **CAFE RACER** Winter Beach Party! Beautiful Freaks, Jackie, Mr. Dinkles, 8 pm, \$5-\$10

**CENTRAL SALOON** Etchings, Proofs, Beast Lighting, 7:30 pm, \$7

**CONOR BYRNE** Hand in the Attic, Screaming Multitudes, Guests, 8 pm

**DARRELL'S TAVERN** School of Rock Seattle Performs: Roots Rock, 8:30 pm, \$10

**THE FACTORY LUXE** Old Rainier Brewery Band Showcase: Longward, Obol, Here Comes the Hooch, 8:30-11:45 pm, \$10/\$12

**HIGH DIVE** ATTYA, Thought Process, Rob Noble, Korra The Kid, 9 pm, \$13

**KREMWERK** Shook: Laika Beats & FRQ NCY, 10 pm, \$12

**NECTAR** Alborosie & The Shengen Clan, Arise Roots, Zion's Gate Sound, 8 pm, \$22-\$50

**NEUMOS** Will Reagan & Andrea Marie, 7 pm, \$22/\$25

▲ **PARAGON** Paragon Live Presents Spence Hood, 9 pm, free

▲ **THE ROYAL ROOM** Noche Bembe y Guanacomo with Elere and Omo Alagba, 8-11:45 pm, \$10

**THE SHOWBOX** Super Diamond, 8 pm, \$22/\$25

**SLIM'S LAST CHANCE CHILI SHACK AND WATERING HOLE** Skularoid Presents: Double or Muffin, Dogstrum, Velvet Jupiter, 9 pm, \$8

★ **TACOMA DOME** Excision: The Thunderdome, 7 pm, \$91-\$139

**TIM'S TAVERN** The Strayaways, Wrong Way at the Roundabout, Midnight Radio Revival, 7 pm, \$7

**TRACTOR TAVERN** Aaron Crawford's Greatest Hits Recorded Live, 9 pm, \$12

★ **VERA PROJECT** Mallory, Atrocity Girl, No Baby, 7 pm, \$10

**VICTORY LOUNGE** E-Neptunes, Deadlifters, 8:30 pm, \$8/\$10

### CLASSICAL/OPERA

**BENAROYA HALL** Thomas Hampson Song of America: Beyond Liberty, 8 pm, \$27-\$125

### JAZZ

**SPACE** Intimate Voices: Music of Montgomery, Mozart, Shaw, Beethoven, and Schubert, 8 pm, \$15-\$25

### DJ/DANCE

ORA NIGHTCLUB

GAWP

10 pm, \$15-\$30

Q NIGHTCLUB

Pop Secret: Golf Clap, 10 pm, \$15

SUBSTATION

HEAT.wav (A Night of Chiptunes and Hardware Dance Music), 8 pm, \$8

## Sun 2/2

### CLASSICAL/OPERA

▲ THE ROYAL ROOM

Bhavani and Friends, 7-11 pm, \$16-\$25

### DJ/DANCE

BARBOZA

Nina Las Vegas, 8 pm, \$13/\$16

## Mon 2/3

### LIVE MUSIC

EL CORAZON

The 69 Eyes, Wednesday 13, Guests, 7:15 pm, \$20/\$23

SUNSET TAVERN

Andy Beatman, Holly Michelle, Kal Nadi, 8 pm, \$10

### JAZZ

▲ PONCHO CONCERT HALL

Cornish Music Department and KNKX Present: Wayne Horvitz's The Royal Room Collective

Music Ensemble, 8 pm, \$0-\$19

THE ROYAL ROOM

Jose "Juicy" Gonzales Quintet, 7-11 pm, \$10

## Tues 2/4

### LIVE MUSIC

▲ ALMA MATER TACOMA

Chastity Belt, 7:30 pm, \$15

CHOP SUEY

Batbox, Less Than Three, Reality Check, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

THE KRAKEN BAR & LOUNGE

Coyote Bred, The Subjunctives, Skates, Sweet Piece, 8 pm, \$7

PHINNEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Kate MacLeod & Kat Eggleston, 7:30 pm, \$10-\$22

THE ROYAL ROOM

Oleaje Flamenco with Ricardo Garcia, Stephanie Pedraza, and Melissa Cruz, 8:30-11:45 pm, \$30

SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB

Festival of Friends Events / Presents: Discography - Volume 2, 8 pm, \$8/\$10

SLIM'S LAST CHANCE CHILI SHACK AND WATERING HOLE

Smoking Bill, Johnny Astro, The Earthlings, DJ Marvette, 8 pm

SUNSET TAVERN

FRETLAND, Chris King and the Gutterballs, Hotel Vignette, 9 pm, \$10

★ TACOMA DOME

Excision: The Thunderdome, 7 pm, \$91-\$139

### CLASSICAL/OPERA

MEANY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Orlando Consort: The Passion of Joan of Arc, 7:30 pm, \$55

### JAZZ

▲ JAZZ ALLEY

Martin Taylor and Frank Vignola, 7:30 pm, \$33

### CLASSICAL/OPERA

CENTRAL SALOON

Beatrix Sky, Jupiter Sprites, Noia, 8 pm, \$8

CONOR BYRNE

Proud Dad, Henry Chadwick, Brookchin, 8 pm, \$8

THE FUNHOUSE

Rosegarden Funeral Party, 8:30 pm, \$10/\$12

SEA MONSTER LOUNGE

Lele, 8 pm, free

TIM'S TAVERN

New Tunes Showcase, 8 pm, \$5

SNOQUALMIE CASINO

Stone Temple Pilots, 8 pm, sold out

▲ SPANISH BALLROOM

Reverend Horton Heat, 7 pm, \$20/\$30

SUBSTATION

Kate Dinsmore, Breaks and Swells, Corinne Sharlet, 8 pm, \$10

TRACTOR TAVERN

Brianna Skye & The Dark Clouds, Xolie Morra & The Strange Kind, Hanna Abrams, 8 pm, \$10

### CLASSICAL/OPERA

BENAROYA HALL

Gidon Kremer in Recital, 7:30 pm, \$75

### JAZZ

▲ JAZZ ALLEY

Martin Taylor and Frank Vignola, 7:30 pm, \$33

▲ RESONANCE AT SOMA TOWERS

Eastside Jazz Club Concert Series, 7:30-9:30 pm, \$25-\$30

▲ TRIPLE DOOR

Lady Rizo, 7:30 pm, \$20/\$25

## Thurs 2/6

### LIVE MUSIC

CONOR BYRNE

Josiah Johnson, Caitlin Jemima, 8-11 pm, \$12

NECTAR

Kitchen Dwellers, The High Seagrass, Five Letter Word, 8:30 pm, \$12/\$16

### SUBSTATION

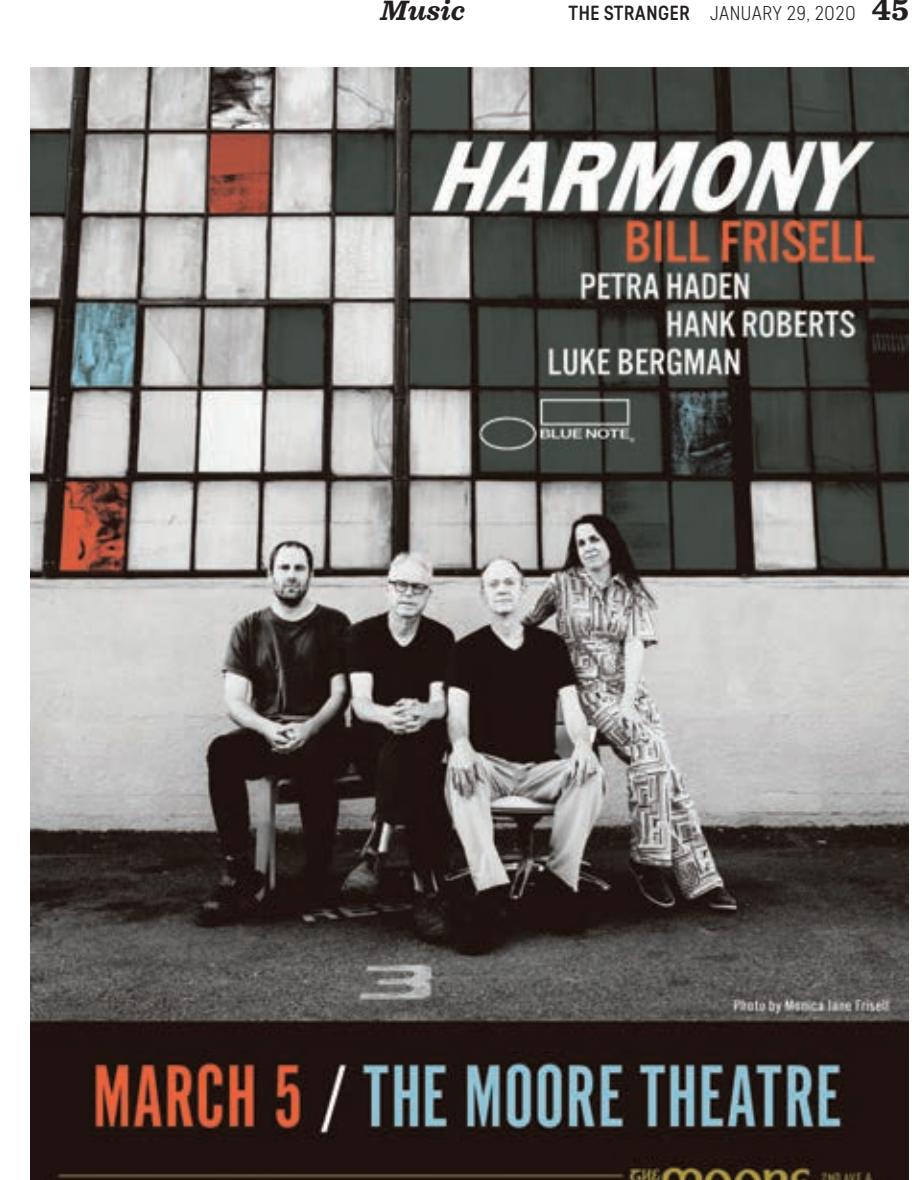
Celebrus, Lupercalia 11, 4 pm, \$15-\$16

### THE UNDERGROUND

Sunset Sessions, 4 pm, \$15-\$16

### VERMILLION

Reflect Presents: Everett Leftside, 9 pm, free



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**Sat 2/8****LIVE MUSIC**

**BARBOZA** City of the Sun, Kiltro, 7 pm, \$17/\$20  
**BEYOND SPACE WAVES** Presents: Delirium, 9 pm, \$27/\$32

**BLACK LODGE** Physical Wash, Lower Tar, Chrome Corpse, Leash, 9 pm, free  
**CLOCK-OUT LOUNGE** Nick Drummond Band, Heels to the Hardwood, 9 pm, \$15/\$20

**COLUMBIA CITY THEATER** Rhythm & Rhymes Vol.2: HDN, Chase Henny, Jay Fiddy, Gifted Youngstaz, ArtBySeven, Carter, 7 pm, \$15

**EL CORAZON** Aurelio Voltaire, Autorotic, 8 pm, \$16/\$20

**FEDERAL WAY PERFORMING ARTS & EVENT CENTER** Seattle Women's Chorus: Revolution 2020, 8 pm

**THE FUNHOUSE** Tribute to La Ley with Revolver Rock, Ghenes, DJ Pollo, 10:30 pm, \$12/\$15

**HIGH DIVE** Joey Cool, C-Mob, Haiku, ColeZ, M.C.F., Litsims& Jodye, The Village, DJ Gerze, 7:30 pm, \$18-\$30

**KREWMWERK** Sundown: Enamour [Anjunadeep], 10 pm, \$12

**LUCKY LIQUOR** Last Rockers Presents: Sad Sad Love, 7:30 pm, \$7

**MIRKWOOD PUBLIC HOUSE** Vampire Lair, 6 pm, \$10/\$15

**MOUNT BAKER COMMUNITY CLUB** KindIndependent - Caspar Babypants, 10:30 am, \$5

**NEUMOS** Minnesota, 7 pm, \$28-\$34

**PERIHELION BREWERY** Hot Rod Red, 8-10 pm, free

**PHINNEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION** Rachel Ries of Her Crooked Heart, 7:30 pm, \$10-\$20

**SKYLARK CAFE & CLUB** Son Red, Guests, 7 pm, \$8

**SLIM'S LAST CHANCE CHILI SHACK AND WATERING HOLE** DevilBilt, Hunnicutt, Stoned Evergreen Travelers, Blood Fire and Rainwater, 9 pm, \$5

**SPANISH BALLROOM** DREAMCATCHR, 6-10 pm, \$5

**TRACTOR TAVERN** Western State Hurricanes, Nevada Bachelors, 9 pm, \$30

**VERA PROJECT ZAHARA**, Talaya, Betty Michaels, 7-10 pm, \$10/\$12

**ZEN ARTS GROUP (ZAG)** Bartender, 7-10 pm, \$20-\$30

**CLASSICAL/OPERA**

**BENAROYA HALL** The Woodwinds: Peter and the Wolf

**BENAROYA HALL** Dvořák Symphony No. 8, \$24-\$134

**BROADWAY PERFORMANCE HALL** Ballard Civic Orchestra: The Other Conquest - 500-Year Legacy of Montezuma & Cortes, 7:30-9:30 pm

**EDMONDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS** CSO - Children's Concert: Paddington Bear's First Concert, 3 pm, \$3-\$10

**DJ/DANCE**

**Q NIGHTCLUB** Haute Sauce: Swervewon, Zilla, Semaj, Gradeay, 10 pm, \$10

**SPANISH BALLROOM** '80s Video Dance Attack, 9 pm, \$10

**JAZZ**

**BENAROYA HALL** Rise Up-The Hamilton Tribute Band, 7:30 pm, \$30-\$38

**NORTH CITY BISTRO** Cail Pettis & Jovino Santos Neto, 8:30 pm, \$20

**THE ROYAL ROOM** Greta Matassa, 5-7 pm, \$15

**TRIPLE DOOR** Patricia Barber, \$25-\$35

**Sun 2/9****LIVE MUSIC**

**CENTRAL SALOON** The BloodMoon Orchestra, Maya Marie, Nicolle Swims, 8 pm, \$10

**HIGH DIVE** Scott Clay Band, The Brothers Reed, Natural Israel, 7:30 pm, \$7/\$10

**HIGHLINE** Mechanismus and Musicwerks Presents Dive, 9 pm, \$20

**THE ROYAL ROOM** Dean Friedman-In Concert, 7:30 pm, \$20-\$25  
**SUBSTATION** Iffin, Bear Talk, Guests, 8 pm, \$8  
**SUNSET TAVERN** Linda From Work, Shark Legs, YADA YADA, 8 pm, \$10

**CLASSICAL/OPERA**

**BENAROYA HALL** Byron Schenkman & Friends Presents: Baroque Bacchanalia, 7-9 pm, \$10-\$48

**SHORECREST PERFORMING ARTS CENTER** Seattle Wind Symphony Presents: Exotic Escapes, 3 pm, \$6-\$20

**TOWN HALL** Ensemble Caprice: Vivaldi's Montezuma (1733), 2:30 pm, \$20-\$45

**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH** Pacifica Chamber Orchestra Sunshine Concert, 3-5 pm, \$15/\$20

**JAZZ**

**TRIPLE DOOR** Patricia Barber, \$25-\$35

**Mon 2/10****LIVE MUSIC**

**ALMA MATER TACOMA** C.W. Stonerking, 7-10 pm, \$15

**CROCODILE** Run River North, 8 pm, \$15/\$18

**EL CORAZON** Soulfly, Toxic Holocaust, X Method, Madzilla, Hands of Deliverance, Twas-monaut, 6:30 pm, \$20/\$25

**FREMONT ABBEY** The Wind + the Wave, 7:30-10 pm, \$20-\$25

**SUNSET TAVERN** Coach Phillips, Sam Parkin, rife, 8 pm, \$10

**TRIPLE DOOR** Albert Castiglia, 7:30 pm, \$16/\$18

**JAZZ**

**PALACE THEATRE & ART BAR** Jazz Vocal Showcase and Open Mic with Dave Desrochers, 8 pm, free

**Tues 2/11****LIVE MUSIC**

**BELLTOWN YACHT CLUB** Big Business, Death Eyes, 7:30 pm, \$16/\$18

**THE FUNHOUSE** Devon Baldwin, 7:30 pm, \$10/\$12

**HIGH DIVE** Adrian Marcel, TJ Upshaw, 8 pm, \$20-\$55

**NEPTUNE THEATRE** The Marcus King Band, 8 pm, \$24-\$74

**SUBSTATION** Blacktop Mojo, 7:30 pm, \$13

**CLASSICAL/OPERA**

**BENAROYA HALL** The Woodwinds: Peter and the Wolf

**BENAROYA HALL** Dvořák Symphony No. 8, \$24-\$134

**BROADWAY PERFORMANCE HALL** Ballard Civic Orchestra: The Other Conquest - 500-Year Legacy of Montezuma & Cortes, 7:30-9:30 pm

**EDMONDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS** CSO - Children's Concert: Paddington Bear's First Concert, 3 pm, \$3-\$10

**DJ/DANCE**

**Q NIGHTCLUB** Haute Sauce: Swervewon, Zilla, Semaj, Gradeay, 10 pm, \$10

**SPANISH BALLROOM** '80s Video Dance Attack, 9 pm, \$10

**JAZZ**

**BENAROYA HALL** Rise Up-The Hamilton Tribute Band, 7:30 pm, \$30-\$38

**NORTH CITY BISTRO** Cail Pettis & Jovino Santos Neto, 8:30 pm, \$20

**THE ROYAL ROOM** Greta Matassa, 5-7 pm, \$15

**TRIPLE DOOR** Patricia Barber, \$25-\$35

**JAZZ**

**BRECHMIN AUDITORIUM** Jazz Innovations, Parts I & II, 7:30 pm, free

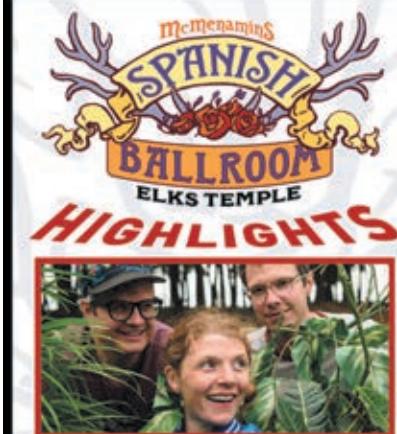
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**2/6 WARREN DUNES UPCOMING EVENTS**

**1/29 JUDD AND THE LOOSE CANNONS**

**1/30 SUPER DIAMOND - THE NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE**

**1/31 '90s DANCE FLASHBACK**

**2/1 SOMESURPRISES**

**2/2 THE BIG GAME ON THE BIG SCREEN\***

**2/3 BLUES VESPERS HOSTS FIRST MONDAY BLUES\***

**2/4 HISTORY PUB\***

**2/5 KALAN WOLFE AND THE SHIFT\***

**2/7 REVEREND HORTON HEAT**

**2/8 '80s VIDEO DANCE ATTACK**

**2/9 WHALIEN**

**2/10 MARK DUFRESNE**

**2/11 BIRCH PEREIRA & THE GIN JOINTS**

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IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ACADEMY AWARDS CEREMONY — FILM HISTORIAN LANCE RHODES' WILL SHARE HIGHLIGHTS AND CONTROVERSIES FROM PREVIOUS CEREMONIES, DISCUSS THE CURRENT NOMINATIONS AND ISSUES, AND OFFER HIS OWN OSCARS PREDICTIONS

**SCARECROW ACADEMY PRESENTS THE ART IN HORROR: HORROR AND THE DIRECTOR**  
A FILM DISCUSSION SERIES HOSTED BY ROBERT BORTON SATURDAY AFTERNOONS AT 2PM, AT THE SCARECROW SCREENING ROOM

**AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT HOW SOME OF THE GREATEST DIRECTORS IN CINEMA TACKLED HORROR. THE ART IN HORROR IS A TEN-WEEK SCREENING AND DISCUSSION SERIES ANALYZING DIRECTORS' METHODS OF TELLING A STORY AND WHAT MAKES GREAT STYLE IN THE HORROR FILM.**

**FEBRUARY 8** *NEIGHBORS (2014)* **FEBRUARY 15** *FRANKENSTEIN (1931)* **FEBRUARY 22** *HAUNTED (1933)* **FEBRUARY 29** *I WALKED WITH A ZOMBIE (1943)* **MARCH 7** *THE THING FROM ANOTHER WORLD (1951)* **MARCH 14** *THE BIRDS (1963)* **MARCH 21** *ROSEMARY'S BABY (1968)* **MARCH 28** *DIRECTOR OF THE LIVING DEAD (1985)* **APRIL 4** *THE SHINING (1980)* **APRIL 11** *THE THING (1982)*

**DISCUSSIONS ARE LED BY FILM CRITIC ROBERT BORTON, AUTHOR OF THE SCARECROW TICKET COLUMN ON THE SCARECROW WEBSITE. HE HAS WRITTEN SEVERAL BOOKS, INCLUDING "FRANKENSTEIN" THE FILM. THE SESSIONS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO ALL AND THERE'S NO HOMEWORK!**

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## THINGS TO DO → Film

# The Little Sasquatch That Could

The Northwest-produced animated feature *Missing Link* was a box-office bomb... and now it might win an Oscar.

BY CHASE BURNS

Early in January, everyone seemed to agree that *Toy Story 4* or *Frozen II* was going to take home this year's Golden Globe for best animated motion picture. Both of those Disney-backed films were beloved by critics and audiences, and *Frozen II* had just become the highest-grossing animated film ever.

But when Amy Poehler and Taylor Swift opened the envelope to announce the Golden Globe winner, the title that came out of their mouths wasn't one of Disney's juggernauts. It was *Missing Link*, a box-office bomb created by the Portland-based (okay, Hillsboro-based) stop-motion animation studio Laika.

*Missing Link*'s producer and director couldn't even be found by the camera; they were seated all the way in the back of the theater. It felt like it took them three minutes to reach the stage.

"Well, I'm flabbergasted," panted *Missing Link*'s writer and director Chris Butler by the time he reached the podium. Butler had also written and directed Laika's 2012 animated hit *ParaNorman*—but unlike *ParaNorman*, which made a worldwide total of \$107 million on a \$60 million budget, *Missing Link* was a financial disaster. It barely recovered a quarter of its \$100 million budget at the box office. (For the record, it cost \$100 million to create *Cats*, which, at the time of this writing, has grossed an estimated \$62 million worldwide. So yes, *Missing Link* flopped harder than *Cats*.)

Why was *Missing Link* such a box-office loser? And how did this loser end up beating the biggest animated movie of all time at the Golden Globes?

The answers to both of those questions



COURTESY OF LAIKA STUDIOS / ANAPURNA PICTURES

*Meet Susan, a Sasquatch who's trying to find his yeti in 'Missing Link,' which is now streaming on Hulu.*

have to do with the movie's plot.

The film follows an English explorer named Sir Lionel Frost, voiced by an uppity Hugh Jackman, who is hired by a strange Pacific Northwesterner named Mr. Link, voiced by Zach Galifianakis, to find a yeti. But Mr. Link, it turns out, is catfishing Sir Frost. Mr. Link is actually a Sasquatch, and he asks to be called "Susan."

*Missing Link*'s trailer promoted the Galifianakis-voiced Sasquatch wanting to be named "Susan" as a joke—"Ha-ha, Sasquatches don't understand gender, Susan is a girl's name"—but I read Susan as queer. Su-

san is fully aware that Susan is a girl's name and he also wants to go by he/him pronouns. Navigating the gender of an animated Sasquatch is, uh, hairy.

Susan calls for Sir Frost because he needs help finding his long-lost relative, the yeti. This leads the pair to the Himalayas. On the way, they are joined by another explorer, Adelina Fortnight (voiced by Zoe Saldana). Fortnight and Sir Frost have a complicated romantic past, and this relationship is the bane of the whole movie. It's boring and shallow, and presumably one of the main reasons for the movie's commercial failure.

As a viewer, I kept wanting to get back to the genderqueer Sasquatch, who is a star.

Galifianakis's portrayal of Susan is consistently surprising and tender. Whether intentional or not, the film ends up telling a queer story through Susan, and in a way that's understandable and appropriate for its younger audiences. The themes are not overt, but they are there. Susan brought home that Golden Globe.

*Missing Link* still might not win the Oscar (the ceremony is Sunday, February 9). *Toy Story 4* remains the leading contender. But if Laika does end up winning that big award, they'll have Susan to thank. ■

## Top Picks

### 'Mickey and the Bear'

BY LEILANI POLK

On its surface, Annabelle Attanasio's *Mickey and the Bear* appears to be your standard, gloomy, coming-of-age tale, its focus on Mickey, a wise-beyond-her-years teenager-on-the-brink-of-adulthood from a poor family in a small

Montana town who doesn't seem to have any future prospects outside of getting married and having kids. Amid working (her taxidermy job reflects her impulse to fix things) and hanging with her loser boyfriend, she takes care of war vet dad Hank. He's the Bear, wounded both physically (the cause of his opioid addiction) and mentally (he has some righteous PTSD), and retaining some vestige of his former charismatic self when he can hold his aggressive tendencies at bay. But he just can't recover, his wretched state compounded by the loss of his wife and his

single parenthood. Although it quickly becomes clear that Mickey's more like the parent in their relationship, from managing his brushes with the law, to cooking his dinner, to rocking him to sleep when he's having an episode, to slipping money in his wallet when she knows he needs it.

James Badge Dale plays the role of Hank like a violin, but the strength of *Mickey and the Bear* lies in the performance of relative newcomer Camila Morrone, who, as Mickey, carries the weight of the film in her soulful eyes and enigmatic smile.

Hers is a character of contradictions and Morrone works through them with subtle ease. Mickey's dutiful and level-headed, yet makes irresponsible decisions. She craves independence, yet can't seem to stop herself from cleaning up her father's messes, putting him before anyone else, even herself. She struggles to exert her identity, while at the same time, she's a people pleaser who can't stand it when the men in her life are mad at her, even when they're at fault. She's the adult caring for her fucked-up father but she's also the child who wants his acceptance. She loves her father, but she also hates him.

When Mickey is finally pushed to action, it's a relief, suffusing *Mickey and the Bear* with a feeling of hope amid the darkness and transforming a good film into a great one. (Feb 5-6, Northwest Film Forum, 7:30 pm, \$13)

**WED FEB 5**

### 'Bottle Rocket'

Have you ever wanted to join a book club, but for movies? The SIFF Movie Club is exactly that, screening a film the first Wednesday of every month and pairing it with an informal post-film discussion at Uptown Hophouse. For February, SIFF will explore popular director Wes Anderson's first feature-length outing, *Bottle Rocket*, a Texan indie from 1996 that follows a group of affable dingbats (Owen and Luke Wilson in their film debut) who try to pull off a series of confusing heists. It's less precious than the rest of Anderson's work, but it still retains his signature bombastic flair. What seems like a straightforward script quickly takes off like a—wait for it—bottle rocket. (SIFF Film Center, 6 pm, \$10.) **CHASE BURNS**



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**FEB. 7-9****'We Believe in Dinosaurs'**

*We Believe in Dinosaurs* offers a sound introduction to young-earth creationists as it documents their building of a \$120 million "life-size" Noah's Ark in rural Kentucky to prove the Bible is scientifically and historically accurate. These are folks who reject evolution, think that the Earth and its lifeforms were created by god 6,000 years ago, and look at the story of Noah as factual and the flood as responsible for the death of dinos. It also offers views of struggling townsfolk hoping to profit from the Ark's tourism, the geologist activist who seems to be the only person in his field fighting it, a former creationist, an anti-creationist activist, and even a Baptist pastor who believes in evolution. Shot over four years, from blueprints to Ark Encounter's opening day to its aftermath, *We Believe in Dinosaurs* looks at the relationship between science and religion, and also reveals a disturbingly widespread form of willful ignorance in the U.S.: 38 percent of Americans believe in creationism, and up to 1 million people have visited the Ark Encounter annually since it opened in 2016. (Northwest Film Forum, \$13) **LEILANI POLK**

**UNSTREAMABLE**

Where we recommend great films you can find only on DVD.

**'Mask'**

There is so much I love about *Mask*: Eric Stoltz's excellent performance as the real-life Rocky Dennis, a funny and kind 16 year old with craniopharyngeal dysplasia; the biker gang that loves and protects him from bullies; the way he explains color to a blind girl he has a crush on, Diana (Laura Dern's first major film performance), using rocks; and, of course, Cher playing his mother, Rusty, who struggles with drug addiction, but fiercely loves her son and fights for his right to be respected. It's a dazzling and emotive performance from Cher. Director Peter Bogdanovich—who famously doesn't like the actress—said that there are so many close-ups of Cher because she has really soulful eyes that always look sad, which fits with her character. He also said that she can't act, but he's a hater. (Available at Seattle Public Library and Scarecrow Video. More recs at [thestranger.com/unstreamable](http://thestranger.com/unstreamable).) **JASMYNE KEIMIG**

**MORE** [TheStranger.com/Film](http://TheStranger.com/Film)

## More Picks

- Love Story**  
AMC Pacific Place & Regal Thornton Place, Feb 9 & 12, \$16
- Nikolaus Geyrhalter's 'Earth'**  
Northwest Film Forum, Feb 9-13, \$13
- Parasite**  
Various locations
- Recorder: The Marion Stokes Project**  
Northwest Film Forum, Jan 31-Feb 6, \$13
- The Rhythm Section**  
Wide release, opening Fri Jan 31
- The Romanians: 30 Years of Cinema Revolution**  
SIFF Film Center, Jan 31-Feb 2, \$13-\$30
- Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971)**  
Central Cinema, Feb 7-12, \$5-\$10
- After Parkland**  
SIFF Cinema Uptown, Wed Feb 12, 6:30 pm, \$14
- Foosballers**  
SIFF Cinema Uptown, Tues Feb 11, 7 pm, \$14
- French Pleasures: The Films of Eric Rohmer**  
Seattle Art Museum, Thurs, \$9, through March 12
- Gretel and Hansel**  
Wide release, opening Fri Jan 31
- 'Haunted Light' Series**  
The Beacon, Fri, \$13
- Holy Flame of the Martial World**  
The Beacon, Sat Feb 1, 9 pm, \$13
- Honeyland**  
Grand Illusion, Feb 7-13, \$10

**MORE EVENTS** [TheStranger.com/EverOut](http://TheStranger.com/EverOut)

## THINGS TO DO → Food & Drink

# Playful and Full of Surprises

At Kin Len Thai Night Bites, the festive atmosphere pairs well with the craveable drinking food.

BY JULIANNE BELL

One punishingly blustery day, I stepped inside Fremont's Kin Len Thai Night Bites and found myself standing in a colorful den stacked with bright, cushy pillows. A Thai film was being projected onto the wall. As I pored over the menu, I was offered a demitasse of complimentary betel-leaf tea, a thoughtful detail that charmed me instantly.

According to its website, Kin Len's name translates to "eat-play." Owners Jennifer "Jenny" Politanont and Saravut Na-

wasangarun—who also run the popular Isarn Thai Soul Kitchen restaurants in Kirkland and Lynnwood—were inspired by both the nightclubs and late-night bars of Thailand. Before they moved to the United States, Politanont and Nawasangarun ran two Italian restaurants in Bangkok and worked in the entertainment industry there (Politanont as an actress/singer/model and Nawasangarun as an actor).

Their restaurants have a theatrical flair befitting two former actors, feeling almost like movie sets at times. After you place your order up front at Kin Len, you're escorted to your seat in the main dining area, which is something like an amalgam of a trendy nightclub, an Epcot theme park version of a Thailand street market, and the Rainforest Cafe. Atmospheric beats throb in the background, and a splashy hot-pink neon sign glows in the dark above a bar fashioned to resemble a street food stall. Festive bunting is strung across the ceiling, and gold tigers glitter on the wall.

Thailand's bars are known for their craveable drinking food, the kind of crispy, chewy, crunchy, fatty, snacky bites that make booze

**KIN LEN THAI NIGHT BITES**  
3517 Fremont Ave N, 206-582-1825



JENNIFER NAWASANGARUN

*The two-in-one pork features two pork preparations—stewed pork hock and crispy fried pork belly.*

sing. Almost no sooner than I was seated, my cocktail materialized along with another surprise—a little dish of complimentary peanuts seasoned with tingly lime leaf and Thai spices, which provided a salty, munchy foil to the refreshingly herbal Tom Yum Fizz.

Slightly fibrous, sticky-sweet threads of hand-pulled caramelized beef—chewy and reminiscent of jerky, served with a mound of sticky rice—made for an eminently satisfying drinking snack, while banana-blossom fries (sort of like the Thai answer to the bloomin' onion) found the fleshy, slender, artichoke-like flowers of the plant battered and fried to a

crackly crisp, and served with a sweet chili sauce for dipping. Unfortunately, the batter-to-blossom ratio was a little overzealous, resulting in few bites of meaty blossom and a lot of empty bites of the crunchy batter.

Other dishes continued to be a study in textures, like the chewy curls of beef tongue with a house-made Thai sriracha dipping sauce. One of Kin Len's most popular dishes is the two-in-one pork, so named because it presents pork in two different preparations: silky, fall-apart stewed pork hock and crispy fried pork belly, served with briny pickled mustard greens and a hard-boiled egg.

I'd come back just for the obsessively good boat noodles—rice noodles swimming in a dark, aromatic, complex broth, with pork cracklings, morning glory, thin slices of beef, meltingly tender tendon, meatballs, tripe, and tongue. The deeply flavored soup scratched a primordial itch for something savory and would be a welcome rainy-day lunch just on its own.

All in all, Kin Len is a savvy, serviceable, cleverly designed restaurant that manages to be both efficient and fun at the same time. Just like the name suggests, it's playful and full of surprises. ■

## Top Picks

**FRI FEB 7**

### Soul of Seattle

By now, you've probably heard of chef Edouardo Jordan, the James Beard Award-winning mind behind acclaimed Ravenna restaurants Salare and JuneBaby, and newer venture Lucinda Grain Bar. For this cultural and culinary event, he'll be teaming up with the Urban League of Seattle to showcase the tasty talents of 10 Seattle-area chefs of color who "embody the diverse fabric of Seattle's food scene." Among them are Makini Howell of Plum Bistro, Trey Lamont of Jerk Shack, and Kristi Brown of That Brown Girl Cooks. Also on tap: a multi-course VIP dinner by Jordan, a reading by James Beard Award winner Toni Tipton-Martin from her new book, *Jubilee: Recipes from Two Centuries of*

*African American Cooking*, and a silent auction. All proceeds go to organizations that support youth of color. (Northwest African American Museum, 6 pm, \$75-\$500) **LEILANI BELL**

### Vietti Dinner

The historic Vietti Winery, located in Piedmont in the northwest corner of Italy, dates back to the late 1800s, and the Vietti family has been making wine there for four generations, achieving such notable accomplishments as producing one of the first-ever Barolo crus in 1965. Today, the winery is run by married couple Luca and Elena Currado Vietti. Elena is paying a visit to Cuoco for a dinner showcasing some of the winery's most outstanding wines, and Cuoco chef Ron Anderson will concoct a swoon-worthy supper to match, inspired by the flavors of northern Italy. (Cuoco, 6:30 pm, \$145.) **JULIANNE BELL**

**SAT FEB 8**



### Jack's BBQ's First Anniversary in SLU

The glorious Central Texas-style smoked-meat mecca that is Jack's BBQ, started by former Microsoft employee and bona fide barbecue nerd Jack Timmons, is celebrating the first anniversary of its South Lake Union location. To mark the occasion, they're tossing an entire alligator into their smoker—truly a strange sight

to behold—and distributing free samples all day, along with house-made sauces for dipping. All beverages will be half-off throughout, including two special cocktails: the "Swamp Cooler" and the "Bog Marsh." Sounds refreshing. (Jack's BBQ, 10 am-9 pm.) **JULIANNE BELL**

**SUN FEB 9**

### Chocofest 2020

Dive headfirst into chocoholic bacchanalia with 10-count 'em 10-drink tickets in tow at this annual pre-Valentine's Day bash. Indulge in libations from local breweries, cidermakers, wineries, and distilleries, and sate your sweet tooth with confections from Fran's Chocolates, Theo Chocolate, Joe Chocolate Company, indi chocolate, and more. When you need to cut your sugar rush with something savory, there will also be bites from local restaurants like Honest Biscuits



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# EverOut

# FOOD

and Tankard & Tun. And know that all your hedonism supports a good cause—proceeds go to Long Live the Kings, a local nonprofit working to restore wild salmon and support sustainable fishing practices in the Pacific Northwest. (Pike Brewing Company, 6 pm, \$55.) JULIANNE BELL

TUES FEB 11



JOHN LAMPARSKI/GETTY IMAGES FOR NYCWFF

## Seattle's Filipino Food with Chef Marcus Samuelsson

KCTS 9 welcomes celebrity chef and restaurateur Marcus Samuelsson, who you likely know from his appearances on shows ranging from *Top Chef Masters* (he won the competition in 2010), to *Chopped* (on which he's a regular guest judge), to his PBS food and travel show, *No Passport Required*. Seattle's Filipino food scene (and places like Hood Famous Bakeshop, Knee High Stocking Co., and Archipelago) was featured in the season two premiere of *No Passport Required* that aired in December. In a recent interview with *The Stranger*, Samuelsson said he'd been to our city countless times but had no idea that almost 3 percent of our population is Filipino until he started filming. "With the show, I'm always learning about new communities," he said. This event celebrates the Seattle Filipino community's food and culture, with Samuelsson in a round table discussion with the chefs and restaurateurs who were featured in the episode, a Filipino Night Market, and Filipino food tastings. (McCaw Hall, 7:30 pm, free/\$25.) LEILANI POLK

**MORE** [TheStranger.com/Food](http://TheStranger.com/Food)

## New Bars & Restaurants

### BEACON HILL

Musang  
Pacific Northwest-influenced Filinx food  
2524 Beacon Ave S

### CAPITOL HILL

Batch Baking Company  
Small-batch bakeshop  
808 12th Ave  
Rondo  
Japanese izakaya  
224 Broadway E

### UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

Mr. Bian Dumpling  
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4311 University Way NE  
Pi Vegan Pizzeria  
Plant-based pizza shop  
5301 Roosevelt Way NE  
**WALLINGFORD**  
Dumpling the Noodle  
Casual Chinese dumpling and noodle spot  
1719 N 45th St

## More Picks

Big Fat Champagne Tasting  
Fatcork, Sat Feb 8, 12-8 pm

Cocktails and Conversations with Leaders of Color  
JuneBaby, Mon Feb 3, 6-9 pm

Dine Out for Fred Hutch at Patagonia  
Patagonia, Fri Jan 31, 5-10 pm

Macallan Scotch Reception

Daniel's Broiler, Thurs Jan 30, 6-8 pm, \$165

SAD Winter Beer Fest  
Figurehead Brewing, Sat Feb 1, 12-10 pm, \$12

Taylor Shellfish Oysters & Bubbles Night  
Bar Ciudad, Thurs, 3 pm, through Feb 27

Walla Walla Wine in Seattle  
McCaw Hall, Mon Feb 10, 5:30-8 pm, \$55

**MORE EVENTS** [TheStranger.com/EverOut](http://TheStranger.com/EverOut)



# LAUGH WHILE YOU CAN

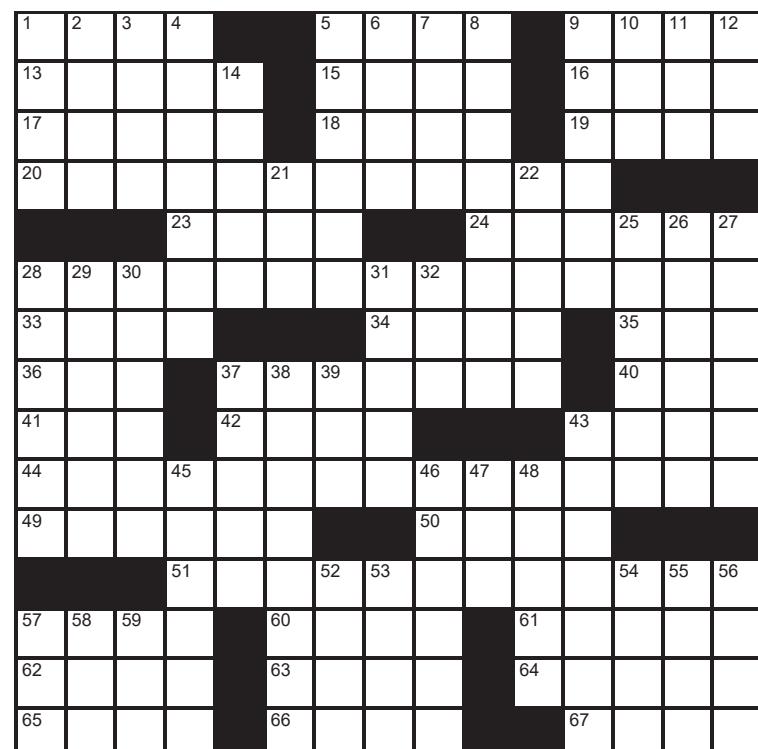
Cupid doesn't reward crying.

true  
romance



## Course Prep

BY BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY



### ACROSS

- Did some ground-breaking work?
- Band with their own museum in Stockholm
- Story with so many characters that it's hard to keep track
- "Duh, that was obvious"
- Leerer, colloquially
- Walked (upon)
- Regular working stiff
- Bad funk
- All of everything
- Headquarters for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Reason for a Tylenol
- Ocho halved
- "Yeah, [snort] right!"
- Langston Hughes poem with the lines "Nobody'll dare / Say to me, / Eat in the kitchen, / Then."
- Bounding rhythm
- Stat for Patrick Mahomes: Abbr.
- Where birds go?
- Off the hook
- Pull a fast one
- Certain sleeve makeup?
- Cheers for Atlético Madrid
- Fashion house name
- Retro chic denim selection
- Allows entry
- Charges from Square or PayPal
- When the most intense fighting occurs
- Org. under the Department of Homeland Security
- Norse trickster
- Some Kia sedans
- Loverboy with a quiver
- Word for "residue" that's more commonly a plural
- Kick out
- "Start of a \_\_\_" (first clue in a themed puzzle that likely elicits a groan)
- "Watch What Happens Live" host Cohen
- Character in a metallic bikini

### DOWN

- Area of concern for those looking to lose a few pounds
- Southern stew veggie
- Organic compound
- Fresh Mexican Grill franchise
- No longer sleeping
- Alpine ski racer Miller
- Voting group
- Soft drink that, despite its name, is actually German
- Patronize, as a campsite
- Video installation, e.g.
- Gunk
- Wood-shaping device
- Big name in grape juice
- "Now it makes sense"
- Little Ivy just outside of Boston
- Punk rocker Zedek
- Daily allowance
- Playful critters
- Befitting a son or daughter
- Immediately
- Withstood challenges
- Lock horns (with)
- "\_\_\_Heldenleben" (Strauss)
- Singer aka the Thin White Duke
- Actor who hosts the "Clear+Vivid" podcast
- Video game platform that had a Power Glove controller
- Dutch visual movement that translates to "The Style"
- Enharmonic equivalent to E-flat
- Burning man?
- Nebraska senator Fischer
- Marilyn Monroe née Norma \_\_\_ Mortenson
- Unable to decide
- Approved
- Feature of Vermont's and Maine's state flags
- Central points
- Spanish 101 verb
- It's got all the answers: Abbr.
- Down Under bird
- "Who? Little old me?"

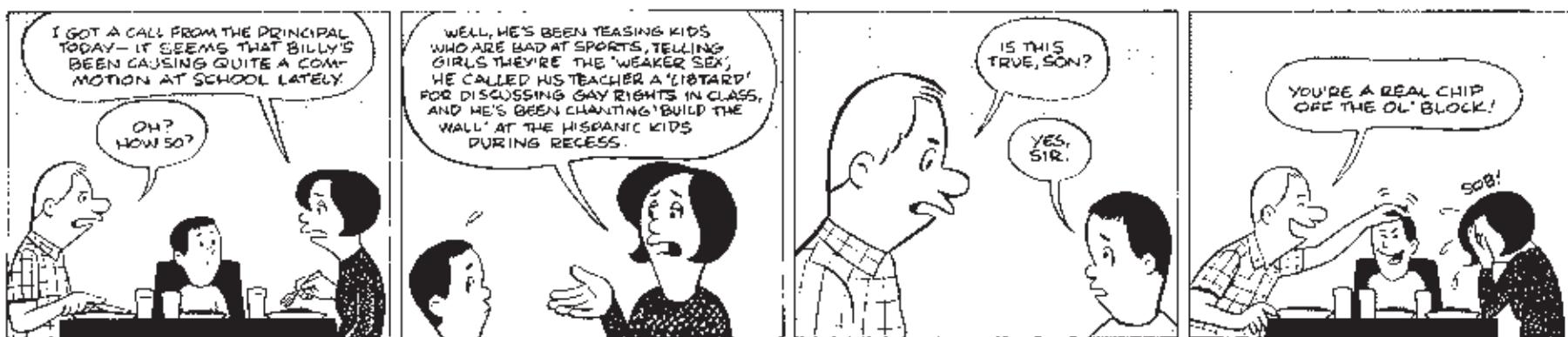
Find the solution at [thestranger.com/puzzlesolution](http://thestranger.com/puzzlesolution).

## SEEN ON THE STREET



In response to Al's surprise proposal of marriage, Cecilia had instructed him to look later on the bridge's grate for her final answer.

TIMOTHY CURTIS



JOHNNY SAMPSON



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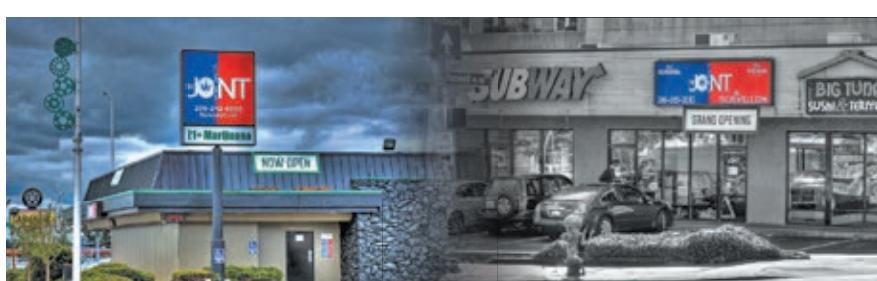
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